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One-third of extra budget to cover wage hikes

JOSE ROSENFELD
and EVELYN GORDON

OVER a third of the NIS 5.6 billion supplemental 1994 budget will go to cover the government's generous wage hikes to public sector workers, the Treasury reported yesterday.

The additional budget, which the Treasury will submit for cabinet approval on Sunday, sets aside NIS 1.523b. to rescue Kupaat Holim Chait, the defense industries, and local governments from spiraling deficits.

The price of the agreement with the Palestinians is a distant fourth in importance at NIS 574 million, after increases of NIS 760m. to cover the costs of greater than expected economic growth.

These and other proposed additional expenses will not get the government deeper in the red this year, since higher than expected tax revenues will fully cover new spending.

Treasury Budget Director David Brodet said he expects the deficit to be slightly smaller than the originally budgeted three percent of Gross Domestic Product. He added that the additional expenses are only aimed at dealing with specific problems that arose after this year's budget was completed last year.

Out of the additional NIS 1.99b. budgeted for wages, NIS 500m. is apportioned to the Defense Ministry, followed by NIS 376m. to the Health Ministry to cover the hikes to nurses and physicians.

The government is planning to inject NIS 840m. into Israel Aircraft Industries, TAAS-Israel Industries, and Rafael to help finance the compensation package for employee dismissals.

The Treasury is also asking to spend NIS 430m. to keep Kupaat Holim Chait running until the end of the year.

Local authorities are to receive an additional NIS 253m. in funding above their originally budgeted amount to address their endemic deficits.

Most of the cost of the agreement with the Palestinians is being borne by the Defense Ministry. The supplemental budget provides the ministry NIS 430m. to cover the cost of redeploying the army, putting up a security fence in Gaza, and protecting the Jewish population in the Jordan Valley and in Gush Katif.

In addition, the civil administration is budgeted for NIS 30m. for setting up the coordination system with the Palestinians, and the Agriculture Ministry will be allocated an additional NIS 46.5m. to compensate farmers from opening the country to agricultural imports from the territories.

The reorganization of the police will cost NIS 40m. The new expenditures are required for the police to man the international border crossings at Rafiah and Allenby Bridge and secure the safe passage for Palestinians between Gaza and Jericho.

Meanwhile, Knesset Finance Committee economic adviser Smadar Elhanani cast harsh criticism on the proposed 1995 budget.

In a document distributed to committee members, Elhanani noted that the 1995 budget constitutes a 24% real increase over the original 1994 budget. (Since she has not yet seen this year's supplementary budget, she noted wryly, it is impossible to make comparisons with the actual 1994 budget.)

Furthermore, she noted, budgetary expenditures rose from a planned 47.8% of GDP in 1994 to a planned 49.6% of GDP for 1995.

"At a time when GDP is rising in real terms, it would be appropriate to at least maintain the ratio of budgetary expenditures to GDP," she wrote.

Algiers commander killed

TUNIS (Reuters) - Moslem guerrillas shot dead the military commander of Algiers, Col. Djelloul Hadj Cherif, yesterday and crack troops killed 13 armed militants in two raids in the capital.

Hadj Cherif, the highest-ranking army officer, was reportedly killed in a battle with militants, was shot dead while discussing the surrender of nine guerrillas surrounded by security forces.

Storm kills more than 400 in Egypt

Weather wreaks havoc here; three divers missing off Ashdod

DAVID RUDGE
and news agencies

THE freak storm that hit Egypt, killing at least 410 people there yesterday morning and causing extensive damage, swept northwards via Eilat and the Arava to the Dan region in the afternoon, leaving a trail of havoc and wreckage in its wake.

Meteorologists said winds of up to 100 kph were recorded as the tornado-like storm pounded its way northwards.

They warned that a similar system is likely to hit the country from the same direction today. Afterwards, the weather is expected to stabilize, although rain will fall in most areas and temperatures will drop by as much as seven degrees.

The storm swept through Eilat, the Arava, and northern parts of the Negev towards Tel Aviv and the outskirts of Haifa, before swinging westwards out to sea.

Electricity pylons, telephone lines, and traffic signals were sent crashing in several localities and huge traffic jams were reported on many roads in the southern and central districts.

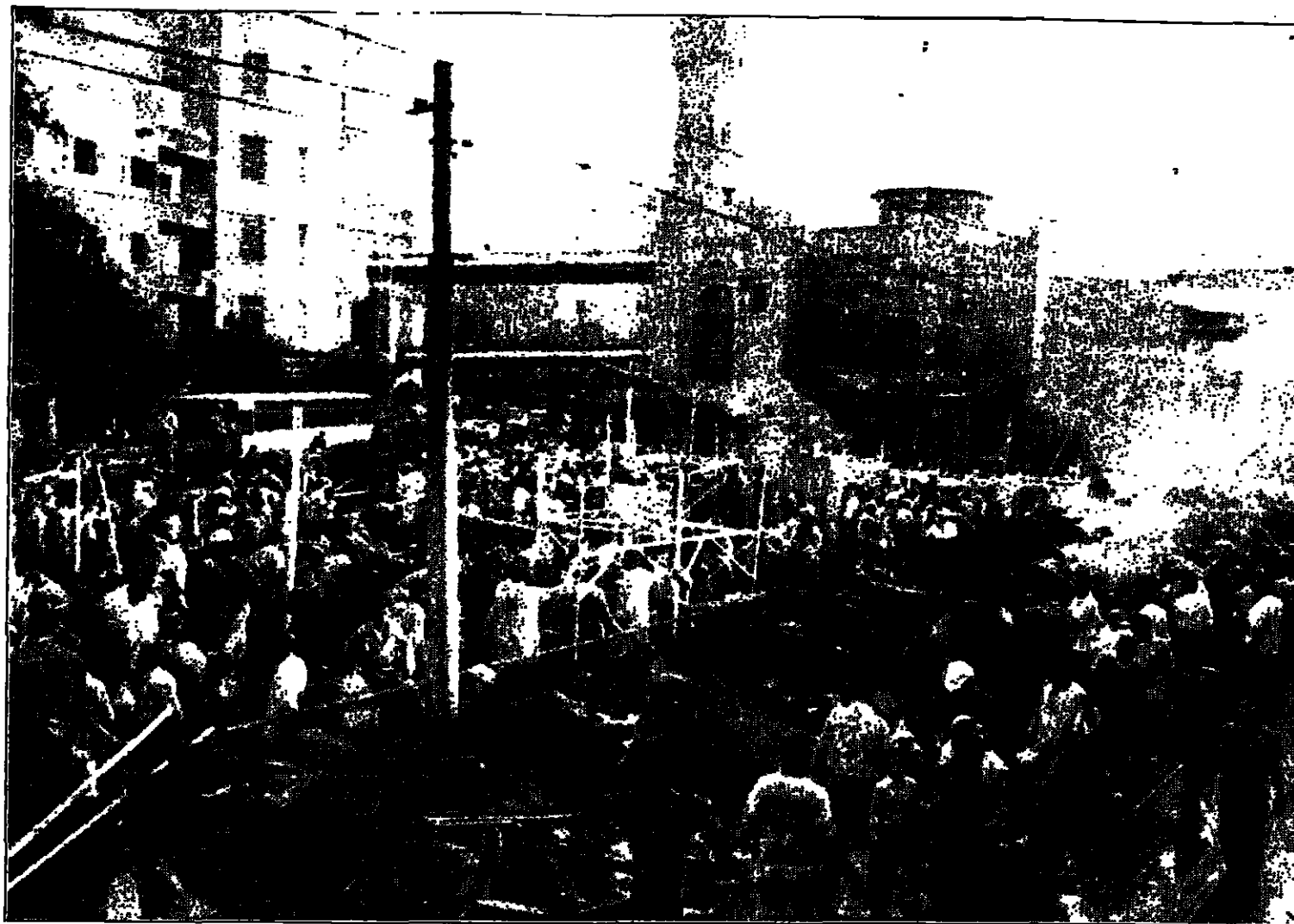
Firemen all over the country were called out to remove trees that had blocked roads and that had fallen on electric lines.

In the Sinai, a British tourist drowned, another was reported still missing, and 15 others were injured last evening when their tour bus was swept away by floodwaters in Wadi Taba. The group, Israel Radio reported, was en route to the Taba border crossing with Israel, when a flash flood overturned their bus.

The tourists managed to break the bus windows and some of them managed to climb to safety on a nearby hill, but the two victims were swept away.

Police and navy boats rescued dozens of people from boats in the Gulf of Eilat.

Three divers went missing yesterday afternoon, when their boat disappeared in stormy seas off Ashdod. They had been on their way to work on the undersea oil pipeline. High waves prevented the dispatch of a police or navy boat.



Merchants try to salvage goods after lightning caused a fire which destroyed their shops in Cairo yesterday. (AP)

The Arava rescue team rescued some 100 pupils who were trapped in the Makhtesh Hakatan by flash flooding.

A 45-year-old Ashkelon woman was lightly to moderately injured when she was blown off her feet by the high winds.

At Ben-Gurion Airport, the temperature dropped from 30° to

21° within an hour, visibility dropped to 50 meters, and the barometric pressure rose sharply.

Since the winds were not especially strong, however, flights took off more or less as normal.

One flight coming from Rome was rerouted to the Uvda Airport in the Arava, while Air France and Lufthansa flights circled the airport for 20 minutes before being given permission to land.

Weather experts said they were taken by surprise by the rare fierceness of the storm.

In southern Egypt, hundreds were killed in the town of Dronka,

320 km. south of Cairo, most of them when blazing fuel flooded into the town from an oil depot struck by lightning, officials in nearby Assiut said.

A health official said hospitals in the area had received 229 corpses from the stricken town, and a security source said another 122 corpses were still lying on the ground there. Flooding killed 63 other people, security sources said.

Rescue teams pulled bodies from charred houses in Dronka, which is the site of a government fuel-tank complex. The blaze at

the complex was still raging more than 12 hours after the explosion. Rescuers kept up a search for more victims in the town's burned-out houses.

Large parts of the town were leveled. Bodies of victims littered the streets yesterday morning before being picked up by ambulances. Residents were evacuated to schools and government buildings in Assiut, the provincial capital, which is nearby.

Lightning struck the complex of eight fuel tanks, which hold 15,000 tons of aircraft and motor fuel, in the morning, after a thunderstorm

had raged for at least five hours, an Assiut province official said. Burning fuel swept through the town on floodwaters.

"It was like napalm," said resident Abdel Mohsen.

He said three of his brothers, aged six, eight and 11 were killed when burning petrol burst into their home. They had been getting ready to go to school.

A woman with burns on her face and hands said her two young children died in the fire.

At least 20,000 terrified townsfolk crowded onto roads leading to Assiut, as thick smoke shrouded Dronka in darkness.

The sources said the storage complex was still on fire last night and a new blaze had started in another storage tank. Firefighters decided to let the fire burn itself out, the sources said.

The governor of Assiut province declared a state of emergency, sending rescue units with tents and blankets for the homeless and army firefighters to try to control the fire.

The governor said it was too early to determine how many people had been killed. People who escaped the inferno said many families were trapped in their homes and that dozens of people were missing, security sources said.

The missing included at least 10 men trapped in a mosque during dawn prayers and a maintenance crew working inside the storage complex.

The fuel tanks are operated by a subsidiary of the state-run Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC).

EGPC officials in Cairo declined to comment on the incident. One said a team of experts was traveling to Assiut to assess the damage to the tanks, which he said were used as a strategic fuel reserve for the Defense Ministry.

The blaze also destroyed fields in the village and a Christian cemetery.

Meteorologists in Cairo said the storm was one of the worst in the country's history and said thunderstorms would continue for another 48 hours.

Turkish PM arrives today seeking closer cooperation

DAVID MAKOVSKY

TURKISH Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who arrives this morning, will seek increased cooperation in a variety of areas, including exchanging information about Islamic extremists and Kurdish rebels, and charting the course for economic partnership, senior Israeli officials said yesterday.

Ciller will be the highest Turkish official ever to visit, and Jerusalem is anxious to enhance ties with Ankara. She will also be the most senior foreign official to visit the Gaza Strip, where she will meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Saturday.

Israel is likely to be receptive in helping Turkey deal with Islamic militants, but not the Kurds, the officials said.

"When it comes to fundamentalism, we definitely have a common language with Turkey. Their extremists are also being funded by Iran and Saudi Arabia. There are already forums of consultation

between our two countries to deal with this, but we think Ciller will want to bolster them," a senior official said. But, he added, "we do not involve ourselves in the Kurdish issue," he said.

One of the agreements Ciller will sign today deals with exchanging police data in the fight against terrorism; the other deals with the international war against drugs.

The two countries are also on the verge of an agreement whereby Jerusalem would provide avionics to helping Turkey upgrade its F-4 Phantom aircraft, officials said.

As the Middle East peace process develops, Ankara is keen on becoming more involved in the region, a senior Turkish official said. Ciller told the economic summit in Casablanca this week that her country is interested in supplying fresh water to the Middle East.

Turkey could reportedly supply Israel with 180 million cu.m.

Senior officials here said is interested in principle, but needs to compare Turkey's prices with the increasingly cheaper price of desalinating seawater.

Ciller will be accompanied by 80 of Turkey's top industrialists, a senior Turkish official said. The volume of trade between the countries stands at roughly \$1.5 million a year, a big chunk of which consists of the estimated 300,000 Israelis who vacation in Turkey. Officials said Turkish tourism here is growing, and now stands at about 20,000 a year.

Turkey is interested in a variety of three-party deals with Israel, hoping the two countries can hook up with the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Central Asian republics. Ankara has pledged \$50 million in project credits to the Palestinian

Authority, but so far the money has not been used.

Ciller will also be joined by five of her ministers - Foreign Minister Turgut Soysal, and the agriculture, energy, transportation, and housing ministers. Six parliamentarians from Ciller's ruling coalition will also be joining her, as will leading members of Turkey's Jewish community.

She is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the Jerusalem business conference on Saturday night.

Apert from holding a working session with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and meeting other senior officials today, Ciller will address the Israel Council on Foreign Relations.

Tomorrow, she will travel to Bat Yam, where she will meet with Israelis of Turkish origin, who in appreciation will give a Shabbat dinner for Ciller in Tel Aviv.

Weizman refuses to cut Avrushi's murder sentence

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman yesterday declined to commute the sentence of Yona Avrushi, who murdered Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig during a Jerusalem demonstration.

Since his term of office began, Weizman has been at loggerheads with Justice Minister David Liba'i over his refusal to grant pardons to murderers or drug dealers.

In a letter to Liba'i yesterday, Weizman wrote that he had made his position concerning those serving life sentences quite plain: Someone who took a life should not be freed after serving less than 20 years.

He added that he sees no reason why he should be more lenient toward Avrushi than other lifers who had appealed for presidential commutations.

With regard to Liba'i's contention that members of the Jewish underground had received commutations from former president Chaim Herzog - a decision Liba'i had criticized at the time - Weiz-

man said: "One injustice does not justify another."

"Yona Avrushi threw a hand grenade at a group of people and killed one of them..." he concluded. "Out of a deep conviction that approving your recommendation would not be fair toward others serving life sentences, I am obliged to turn it down."

The Knesset recently introduced changes in the legislation making a life sentence for murder mandatory, largely at the request of Weizman, who said he could not take the place of a judge.

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) expressed disappointment at Weizman's refusal. "I find myself in the ironic position of defending the murderer of my friend," he told Channel 1. "But Avrushi is the only political prisoner who has not received a commutation, even though he has expressed his regret at his actions. He has to be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Gur says we must take Lebanese offer seriously

DAN IZENBERG

THE government seemed to be sending a strong affirmative signal to Lebanese president Elias Hrawi yesterday, when Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur told the Knesset that Israel should take his latest negotiating offer seriously.

"Two days ago, there was a report in the name of the Lebanese prime minister or president regarding a certain willingness to assume responsibility for stopping terrorism," Gur said. "I deliberately put the stress on [stopping terrorism], without the accompanying conditions. I stress that this is not full peace and every one of us will be called upon to show courage of conscience and responsibility in considering whether to take up the challenge. I dare say I will recommend accepting it."

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin seemed to declare the offer unacceptable because it marked a return to cease-fire arrangements "in an era of peace negotiations with neighboring countries, and we must not back away from this principle."

In his remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Rabin said he had conveyed to the Lebanese, via US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, that Israel's terms for nor-

mization, including an IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon, include deployment of the Lebanese army up to the border, absorption of the South Lebanon Army into the Lebanese army, disarmament of Hizbullah, and six months of proven quiet along the border.

According to initial reports at the beginning of the week, Hrawi appeared to propose that Israeli and Lebanese military teams would meet for six months to plan the IDF withdrawal. During that period, the Lebanese government would guarantee quiet along the border. However, Lebanese officials later claimed that armed resistance would end only after an Israeli withdrawal.

Gur seemed to indicate a greater Israeli flexibility. He maintained the possibility of a security arrangement falling short of full peace.

"We will have to determine under what conditions we are ready for a settlement in Lebanon, even if it does not fulfill all [our] conditions," Gur said. "But should there be a commitment on the part of the Lebanese government to stop terrorism, each one of us will have to say whether he is willing to give this possibility a chance."

Islamic Jihad activist killed by car bomb

JON IMMANUEL

ISLAMIC Jihad activist Hani Abed was assassinated by a powerful car bomb in Khan Yunis yesterday afternoon, raising strong suspicions in the Gaza Strip that Israel security services have begun to eliminate the organizers of terror attacks.

Abed, 32, was suspected of arranging the drive-by shooting of Sgt. Moshe Bukra and Cpl. Erez Ben-Baruch near the Erez checkpoint on May 20. Hamas and Islamic Jihad both claimed responsibility for the attack.

The blast tore apart Abed's car outside the Khan Yunis College of Technology, where he taught chemistry. The car exploded when he either opened the door or turned on the ignition, local sources said. He died in the hospital.

Abed was also an editor of the Islamic Jihad's recently licensed weekly, *Ishtiklal*.

About 300 Islamic Jihad supporters crowded into his house when his body was brought there.

Some fired into the air, vowing revenge.

Abdullah Shami, the most prominent leader of Islamic Jihad in Gaza said, "To hell with their peace process. The bullets of the mujahadeen will never stop and will be directed at the army of occupation, joint patrols, and settlers. The response, Rabin, will come very soon."

A leaflet was later distributed. Abed was arrested by the Palestinian Police the day after the May attack, which occurred just one day after the IDF evacuated most of the Gaza Strip. He was held in Gaza Central Prison for 17 days.

When Islamic Jihad leaders demanded his release, police told them they were holding Abed for his own protection, as they had information that the Israeli security forces planned to kill him. Israel was angered by his release.

The Palestinian Authority spokesman had no comment about the killing last night.

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Rabin: Trial opening of Machpela Monday

HERB KEINON, BILL HUTMAN, and DAN IZENBERG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the chief rabbis yesterday that the IDF intends to open the Machpela Cave for a trial period on Monday.

According to the plans for dividing the cave, closed since Baruch Goldstein killed 29 Moslems there in February, the Moslems will be allotted the Yitzhak Hall for prayer, while the Jews will get the smaller Ya'acov and Avraham halls.

Jews will be able to pray in the entire cave on 10 holidays, while the same will be true for Moslems on 10 of their holidays.

The rabbis also heard of a proposal whereby the Moslems will have access to the entire cave on Friday morning for prayer services, and the Jews will have access to the entire cave on Friday night for Shabbat services.

The cabinet is expected to be asked to approve these plans at its weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday.

Police sources said the cave will be open for two days, shut down for a

couple days to review the new arrangements and improve them if necessary, and then be reopened again.

Deputy Commander Jihad Kabalan is to head the new Border Police unit responsible for security inside the Machpela Cave. The unit's some 100 Border Police officers underwent special training for the job.

Another Border Police unit, headed by Chief Superintendent Meir Dahan is to be responsible for security just outside the holy site.

During a debate in the Knesset yesterday, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur said the delay in reopening the Machpela cave was "caused by one thing only - the desire of the prime minister to achieve the least possible friction between the Jewish and Moslem sides."

He said he hoped the holy site would be open next week but did not confirm the details on the prayer arrangements.

Gur's aide said the decision to reopen the cave next week followed a

meeting of senior security officials on Tuesday.

Gur, replying to motions to the agenda by Rehavam Ze'evi (Mole-det) and Aryeh Deri (Shas) said that before beginning the renovations in the cave, Rabin had waited for the recommendations of the Shamar Commission. Afterwards, he tried to reach an understanding on the arrangements with the Waqf.

He said he hoped the arrangements "would meet with the maximum satisfaction, but I assume there will be some hard feelings."

Gur refrained from relating to demands from Ze'evi and Deri to open the Yitzhak Hall to Jews. Deri agreed that Jews and Moslems could not pray in the chamber at the same time, but said Jews could be allowed to pray in-between Moslem services.

Ze'evi also criticized the reported arrangements whereby Jews would be barred from carrying arms, and Jewish "troublemakers" would not be allowed to enter the building.

'Kiryat Arba is priority settlement'

HERB KEINON

KIRYAT Arba is one of the government's "priority" settlements, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a group of UJA leaders yesterday, putting it in the same category as Greater Jerusalem, the Golan, and Jordan Valley settlements.

"We don't see any reason to give priority to the settlements in the densely populated regions," Rabin said during a speech at the Jerusalem's Hyatt Regency Hotel, explaining his government's priorities fol-

lowing the 1992 elections. "But to those along the confrontation lines - the Jordan Valley, the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, Greater Jerusalem - yes. But not in Nabulus, not in the middle of Hebron. Kiryat Arba, yes, but not in the middle of an Arab town."

This was the first time Rabin has publicly classified Kiryat Arba with other "security" settlements. Elkana and Afula, as well as other settlements along the western border

of Samaria, have also been so classified in previous Rabin speeches.

But while Kiryat Arba received this classification, Rabin lambasted the settlement in Hebron. "In Hebron, there are 80,000 to 100,000 Palestinians, and 415 Israelis," he said. "To protect them we need three battalions to be there all the time. They [the settlers] don't protect us, we protect them." Rabin said that more "than half the standing army" is deployed in Judea and Samaria.



Elitzur Botavia ponders the grave of Baruch Goldstein in Kiryat Arba yesterday, as others continue to build a disputed shrine around it. (AP)

Injunction halts any move on 'Davar'

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

DAVAR journalists yesterday obtained an interim injunction from the Tel Aviv Labor Court forbidding the Histadrut from taking any action which might infringe on the workers' rights until it recognizes the wage and pension agreements it signed.

The Histadrut-owned Davar is expected to close down at the end of next month, following management's cancellation earlier this week of the collective wage agreement with its workers as of January 1.

The journalists' action committee and Journalists' Federation charged at a press conference that Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon systematically sabotaged the journalists' purchase bid for Davar, which he intended to close down all along.

The speakers called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to intervene to prevent Davar's closure.

The injunction preserving Davar's wage agreements was requested as soon as management announced it was canceling them and had no intention of renewing them.

The journalists said the move indicated the Histadrut's intention to violate their pension and severance payment rights.

Journalists Federation Chairwoman Sarah Friedman said that despite Ramon's attempts to evade responsibility for Davar, "we will prove in court that the Histadrut not only owned Davar, but managed it directly."

"The Histadrut appointed Davar's management and editors, signed the wage agreements with the workers and provided the funds for the newspaper's daily publication," Friedman said.

Peres defends large Casablanca delegation, cites achievements

DAN IZENBERG

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres yesterday defended the large Israeli presence at the Casablanca conference after it was criticized by the opposition and even by some coalition MKs.

Peres, who enumerated the agreements reached, said that never "has so much much been done in two-and-a-half days in terms of scope, substance, appearance, a new breeze in the Middle East and an absolutely new view of what is happening here."

MKs including Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), Moshe Peled (Tsimet),

Moshe Gafni (UTJ) and Avner Shaki (NRP) of the opposition, and Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) and Alex Goldfarb (Yit'ud) criticized the government for the size of the delegation, which included eight ministers. Some of the MKs also charged that the conference had achieved nothing substantial.

Peres placed the end of the Arab boycott at the top of his list of achievements. He quoted from a resolution calling for the cancellation "as soon as possible of obstacles, including boycotts and all barriers to trade and investment."

"When was there ever such a deci-

sion in which everyone says that the borders must be open to free trade, movement of people, goods and ideas?" he asked.

He listed other agreements reached at Casablanca, including the establishment of a steering committee to monitor economic developments in the region, a regional development bank headed by the US, a bank for the development of private banks in Israel, Egypt and Jordan with a starting capital of \$250 million, a regional council for the development of tourism, and a forum including the US and four Gulf states to discuss commercial development.

"I justify the presence of all the ministers and MKs," he said. "It was the largest participation in a conference in 46 years. It was an opportunity for encounters. Would it have been better had there been seven conferences and each minister had gone alone?"

Peres also rejected the charges of "Israeli colonialism" leveled by some of the speakers at the conference.

Demolition order given for plaza around grave of Baruch Goldstein

HERB KEINON

THE Civil Administration in Judea yesterday ordered the demolition of a plaza being built around Baruch Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba.

The administration called on the builders to tear up the stone floor being laid there within seven days, and to refrain from building anything else at the site, including a permanent tombstone.

About 10 days ago, work began on the plaza, meant to accommodate those wanting to visit the grave. In addition to the stone floor, chairs, benches and two chests for prayer books have been placed at the site. Ever since Goldstein was buried in February, after he killed 29 Moslem worshippers in the Machpela Cave and was killed himself, a small but steady trickle of people pray regularly at the grave. Money for the plaza, near the Rabbi Meir Kahane Park, just inside the entrance to Kiryat Arba, was donated from friends of the family both here and abroad.

Jerusalem resident Ya'acov Koren, who said he goes to the grave once every two weeks, told Israel Radio that he does so "because I feel it is important to come to the grave of this righteous Jew." Koren said the demolition order "must infuriate us, and we need to guard the grave so they can't do anything."

Former Kach spokesman Noam Federman, who lives in Hebron, said "we will not allow them to uproot the site. We will guard the site there and not let them touch it."

Goldstein was buried in Kiryat Arba after the IDF refused to allow him to be buried in the ancient Jewish cemetery in Hebron, out of concern that this would touch off riots in that city. The understanding at the time, however, was his interment in Kiryat Arab would only be temporary, and

that he would be moved to the Hebron cemetery at a later date.

Kiryat Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover said the IDF can't refuse to allow Goldstein to be buried in Hebron, and on the other hand not allow the erection of a tombstone on his grave in Kiryat Arba.

"A Jew, no matter what kind of Jew, deserves to have a gravestone, whether the state wants it or not," Katzover said. "Even Abu Jihad - we should not mention them in the same breath - a man who was responsible for killing numerous Jews, was brought by the PLO here for reburial, and no one said he should not have a gravestone."

Katzover said a senior IDF officer told him that the issuing of the demolition order was a "mistake."

The IDF Spokesman could not confirm or deny this last night, saying the matter was being investigated.

Milestones reveal Roman road

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE chance discovery of eight Roman milestones near Kibbutz Yehel in the Arava has led to the uncovering of 18 others, indicating that there had been a major Roman road in an area where none was thought to exist. All the milestones, however, are in territory that is to be returned to Jordan.

The question of to whom they now belong will be decided in negotiations between the two countries, the Antiquities Authority said yesterday. The stones, each 1.2 meters high and weighing 100 kg., are all exactly one Roman mile, 1,480 meters, apart. The most important find was stone indicating it was 12 miles from Ossia. This is the stone's precise distance from the Roman fortress at Yotvata, indicating that the Romans called Yotvata by the name Ossia, a fact which had been unknown before.

PA to take charge of health services by mid-November

THE Palestinian Authority will assume control of all health departments in the territories by the middle of November, Riad Zannoun, its health minister, announced yesterday.

The Palestinians expect to run the area's hospitals and clinics by November 15, he said during a tour of Hebron hospitals and a clinic. An agreement transferring control of the health departments was signed in during the Casablanca conference.

The Palestinian Authority also opened an intensive care unit for heart problems in Ahli Hospital.

Israel and the Palestinians signed several agreements during the economic conference that give the Palestinian Authority a much higher profile in daily affairs.

Expanding Palestinian control beyond Gaza and Jericho is considered a key step in gaining popular support for the peace plan. (AP)

Nakan sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in plea bargain

RAINE MARCUS

NADAV Nakan, a former kibbutznik who killed an elderly couple in California, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday as part of a plea bargain.

Nakan's partner, Yair Or, is already serving a life sentence for the contract killing of Carmen and Jack Hively in 1987. The Hivelys were shot at close range while they were sleeping.

The murder was commissioned by the couple's son-in-law, Charles Le

Gros, who stood to get a large inheritance.

Le Gros hired Or to do the shooting, and Or brought Nakan into the plan. Both men are from Kibbutz Alonim and former IDF officers.

Nakan agreed to serve as a prosecution witness in Le Gros's trial in exchange for the prosecution agreeing to reduce charges from murder to manslaughter.

The case made history since it was the first time Israelis were tried here for crimes committed abroad.

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In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our dearly beloved

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The funeral will take place today, November 3, 1994, at 3 p.m., at the Nahlat Yitzhak Cemetery.

Family and friends will meet at the gate of the cemetery.

Families: Raszewski
Horowitz
Ben-Sinai
Eylenberg

and the entire family in Israel and Holland.

Shiva at 8 Heh B'iyar St., Tel Aviv.

We share in the deep sorrow of
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upon the untimely death of her husband

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The Administration, Faculty and Students of
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Fiji President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara (right) visits Beit Hanassi yesterday for a luncheon in his honor given by President Ezer Weizman. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, just back from Casablanca, also attended. The Fijian leader, who was hospitalized here last week after visiting his troops in Lebanon, expressed gratitude for the 'best in the world' care. (Photo Noy)

Close to 1,000 Fijians serve in Mideast peace-keeping

BATSHEVA TSUR

THERE are close to 1,000 Fijian soldiers serving with the UN peacekeeping forces, more than 600 in Lebanon, and the remainder in the Sinai, Fiji President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said yesterday.

"They do their duty well, but we hope peace will break out in the whole Middle East and that they will no longer have any role here," Mara said.

He was speaking after a luncheon hosted for him and his wife by President Ezer Weizman and his wife.

Reuma. During the meal, Mara also spoke with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who had returned from Casablanca a few hours earlier.

Mara, who met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday, said he was encouraged to see that Israel is willing to help Fiji with agricultural development.

"We [already] send a lot of people to train here and have technical assistance from Israel in Fiji," he said.

The 780,000 people who live on the islands and atolls which comprise his country depend heavily on agriculture and fishing, while foreign revenue comes from tourism and gold mining.

Describing bilateral relations as "very good," Mara added that a lot of Fiji businessmen and pilgrims had begun coming to Israel.

Israel's leaders expressed their gratitude to the Fiji government for its peacekeeping efforts and sent condolences to the families of the 29 Fiji soldiers who have been killed in action in the Middle East.

Mara was hospitalized at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital last week after feeling ill during a visit to the troops in Lebanon.

"I am very well now and I was treated at the best hospital in the world," he said yesterday.

Plan drawn to double population in Arava

THE Jewish Agency plans to double the number of residents in the Arava by the year 2000, by expanding existing communities there, Acting Agency Chairman Yehiel Leket said yesterday during a tour of the area.

Leket said the agency, the Tourism Ministry, and the Negev Tourism Development Administration had drawn up a plan that would turn Arava communities into "the forefront of progress and economic development," and would bring more than 5,000 people to the area.

Under the plan, experimental research stations would be expanded, and international study centers would be established to offer training in advanced agricultural methods.

There would also be development of desert tourism projects, the turning of the Dead Sea area into a world-class site for medical tourism, and the building, together with Jordan, of water, energy, environment, agricultural, and air transport projects, including an airport that would serve the two countries.

The plan assumes there will be ready international and Jewish financing of the development projects, particularly since the risk premium investors pay to insurance companies should be reduced, now that there is peace between Israel and Jordan.

Other factors encouraging investment are the dynamic atmosphere that the peace process has created and

the desire by both Israel and Jordan to speed up normalization of relations, according to the plan's authors, architects Adam Mazar and Eli Furst.

The two also note that "the demand for land in the center of the country will continue to push prices up, and as a result, some of this demand will be shifted to the Negev and the Arava."

"At the same time, the rezoning of agricultural land for building in the center of the country will sharply increase the demand for farmland in the Negev and the Arava," they write.

As a result, the Arava can expect unprecedented growth in agriculture and industry, they said. (Iim)

Baram touts casino idea

DAN IZENBERG

THE government does not rule out the possibility of building a casino to compete in the tourism sector with Egypt and Turkey, and even Jordan and the Palestinian autonomy, Tourism Minister Uzi Baram said yesterday.

Baram was replying to a question by Avraham Verdiger (United Torah Judaism), who warned that a casino would be "a moral disaster."

Baram refrained from declaring that the government supported the building of a casino, but indicated that he favored the idea.

"Israel relies on tourism and is currently competing for the international tourism market," said Baram. "In these circumstances, we see the following picture: There is a casino in Tabat, there might be a casino in Akaba and it could be that when the tourism portfolio is transferred to the Palestinians in the early empowerment, they could even establish a casino in Bethlehem."

"We have to see then whether Israel can accept the fact that Israeli citizens travel to Turkey and other countries and spend millions of dollars," he said.

Baram rejected Verdiger's claim that a casino would necessarily foster crime.

"Israeli citizens want a casino, but one which will be controlled and that will be sited in reasonable circumstances," he said. "I can tell you that in Deauville and Vienna there are casinos, and the crime rate is low because steps are taken to prevent it. Not every place is Las Vegas or Atlantic City."

Baram reminded the Knesset that the government will have to determine its position on a private member's bill submitted by Labor MK Avi Yehzekel. Yehzekel's bill calls for the establishment of a gambling authority, whose job it will be to build casinos.

Immigrant scientists protest expected firings

BATSHEVA TSUR

DOZENS of immigrant scientists yesterday held a vigil outside the Knesset for the third day in a row, claiming 900 top-level scientists are about to lose their jobs.

The immigrants also called for an end to alleged discrimination in the salaries paid to them as compared to veteran Israeli scientists.

"This year, no professors or high-ranking scientists from the CIS have come to live in Israel because they were painfully aware that there are no professional opportunities for them here," the Association of Israeli Immigrant Scientists said in a letter to President Ezer Weizman, appealing for his intervention on their behalf.

The immigrants scientists have asked to meet with Weizman. The ministry spokesman said, "and not in the next few weeks."

The ministry responded that the project, drawn up in its final form only two weeks ago, is due to be discussed comprehensively with the Finance Ministry at the end of this month.

The scientists plan to continue their vigil today and have called on Israeli academics to join them.

Meanwhile, the Zionist Forum this week published a statement saying that 62% of the immigrants from the CIS who had held scientific or academic jobs in their country of origin were no longer working in their fields.

pay them when government subsidies come to an end," the ministry spokesman said, "and not in the next few weeks."

The immigrants scientists charge that the so-called Gladi project that was supposed to provide a long-term solution for 500 outstanding scientists has been excluded from the budget by the government.

The ministry responded that the project, drawn up in its final form only two weeks ago, is due to be discussed comprehensively with the Finance Ministry at the end of this month.

The scientists plan to continue their vigil today and have called on Israeli academics to join them.

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Suspect held in Kfar Sava bombing; soldier still critical

RAINE MARCUS

SHARON Police arrested a 30-year-old Netanya resident yesterday in connection with the planting of a bomb in Kfar Sava, which left an IDF officer seriously wounded Tuesday night.

The officer, Lt. Idan Buchak, 22, of Hod Hasharon, suffered severe head injuries, and was reported in

critical condition yesterday at Beilinson Hospital.

The suspect has a criminal record, police said, and is expected to appear for a remand hearing today. Police believe that the bomb was probably

planted near the wrong car. The person for whom the bomb was apparently intended was questioned yesterday.

Buchak had just parked his mother's car in the lot behind an apartment

building. As he left his car, the bomb, planted at the front end of another vehicle, exploded.

Sharon police chief Dep. Cmdr. Bertie Ohayon stressed that the officer was an innocent bystander and was not linked to the incident. The bombing, he said, was the settling of scores between criminals.

Flight accord soon with Morocco

Jerusalem Post Staff

A FLIGHT agreement between Israel and Morocco will be signed within two weeks, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar reported yesterday, following a meeting with the Moroccan transport minister.

"Together with the Moroccan transport minister, and based on data presented to us, it is clear that there is economic justification for the operation of regular flights between the two countries," Kessar said.

A commercial agreement between El Al and Air Morocco will be signed at the same time as the flight agreement, he added.

Direct flights would cut the price of travel between the two countries in half, to about \$500. Currently, Israelis must travel to Morocco by way of Paris; the Transport Ministry spokesman Eli Danon said.

"There is tremendous tourism and commercial potential between Israel and Morocco," Kessar said. "I have no doubt there will be heavy movement of tourists and businessmen between the two countries."

Immigrant circumcises himself to be 'one of the boys'

JUDY SIEGEL

THE case of an immigrant from Uzbekistan who circumcised himself without medical supervision is reported in the latest issue of *Haaretz*.

The unmarried immigrant, 29, arrived in 1992 and worked for short periods in construction, maintenance, and carpentry. An alcoholic, he reportedly came here to improve his economic situation. After being fired from a job in an Eilat Hotel, he moved in with friends in the center of the country.

The IDF sent him a draft notice, which he welcomed as an opportunity for a steady job and a ticket to acceptance, as well as immigrants' benefits. He sought a ritual circumcision so that he would feel "one of the boys," but the rabbinate refused to pay for the operation because it didn't regard him as halachically Jewish, the doctors wrote.

After reading a book about circum-

cisions - and drinking a bottle of vodka - the man performed the surgery on himself, using a razor blade. Bleeding profusely, he rushed to Kaplan's emergency room, where the circumcision was completed.

The Kaplan doctors said his intelligence was normal, and that his deed was not an act of self-mutilation. A psychiatric examination showed he was not psychotic, but did suffer from a personality disorder with psychopathic overtones.

Police expose immigrant mortgage scam

RAINE MARCUS

A GANG which allegedly defrauded banks all over the country by buying mortgage rights from immigrants who were leaving the country was exposed by Central District police yesterday.

The gang allegedly defrauded Bank Leumi branches in Ness Ziona, Holon, Bat Yam, Haifa, Jerusalem, and Beersheva of some NIS 2 million.

Gang members allegedly placed ads aimed at immigrants who were in financial difficulty and wished to leave the country in a Russian-language newspaper. The ads offered them loans on easy terms to finance their emigration.

Those who responded were advised to obtain their mortgage rights certificate, and apply for mortgages in return for a payment of \$7,900-\$10,000. People were also allegedly paid NIS 500 to act as guarantors for

the immigrants when they went to obtain their loans, often forging wage slips to prove employment.

The suspects allegedly used two types of scams. In one, they would send a married couple to look for an apartment. When the couple found a suitable one, they would sign the purchase contract and get their loan. The money was paid to the apartment owner. But after a few days a gang member, posing as a real estate agent, would ask the owner to return the sum, saying the buyers had changed their minds. The owners apparently agreed, and the gang member would deposit the money in his own account.

Police said the gang members would also rent apartments, and then forge purchase contracts using fictitious names of owners. They would

also open bank accounts in these fictitious names. They would then tell immigrants to apply for loans for these apartments, as if they were going to purchase them. Based on these forged contracts, loans were granted and paid into the "owners'" accounts.

The main suspect and alleged gang leader, Vatslav Somohayev, 27, is currently in custody. A couple and another man were also arrested. Police said more arrests are expected.

Germany's first-ever Jewish studies program inaugurated

POTSDAM, Germany (AP) - Germany's first-ever Jewish studies program - encompassing literature, culture, philosophy, and history - was inaugurated yesterday at Potsdam University, in this eastern state capital.

Program director Karl Groezinger called the occasion "a milestone in the history of German higher education" during a ceremony at the university, which was reconstructed after East Germany's dissolution.

Until now, students at German universities could only study Jewish themes in conjunction with religious studies. The new program is modeled

on degree programs at American and Israeli universities.

The head of the country's Jewish community, Ignatz Bubis, greeted the program as an "absolute essential" for today's Germany, which has been plagued by right-wing violence.

Bubis said German universities must familiarize their students with all that is foreign, and noted that antisemitism and anti-foreigner sentiment are worst in areas where foreigners are few.

Some 170 students have enrolled in the interdisciplinary degree program, which also includes research on antisemitism.




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THE EVENT

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Suspects in Iranian PM's murder go on trial in Paris

SANDRINE BRICLOT
PARIS

FRENCH police were on maximum alert as the trial of the suspected murderers of former Iranian prime minister Shapur Bakhtiar opened in Paris yesterday, putting the Iranian state in the dock.

Sharpshooters manned the rooftops and an extra 80 uniformed police guarded the Palais de Justice (law courts) as three Iranians went on trial before a special anti-terrorism court for their alleged roles in Bakhtiar's death on August 6, 1991.

The conservative daily *Le Figaro* called it "An unprecedented trial... of state terrorism." The popular daily *Le Parisien* summed up the case in a headline as "Iran in the dock."

The trial has strained relations between France and Iran. In the dock were Ali Vakili Rad, one of the suspected assassins, Zeynal Sarhadi, a great-nephew of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani accused of helping him escape, and Masoud Hendi, a businessman charged with providing logistical support.

Six other Iranians believed to be in Tehran are being tried in absentia.

The prosecution and civil plaintiffs will seek to prove that it was the long arm of Iranian revolutionary revenge that slit Bakhtiar's throat and left his body beneath a blood-stained sheet in the Paris suburb of Suresnes. Iran denies involvement.

Bakhtiar's three sons, his French first wife and his Iranian second wife were in the courtroom at the start of the trial, along with about 20 lawyers, 50 journalists and 75 witnesses.

The trial is before a special court of seven magistrates headed by Judge Yves Jacob. There

were no civilian jurors to avoid possible threats or pressure.

The defense says the accused are innocent and has requested a postponement, saying some major trial documents have yet to be translated into Farsi.

Bakhtiar, the late Shah's prime minister for the last five weeks of his rule, fled to France and was condemned to death by an Islamic judge after the 1979 revolution.

He survived a first murder attempt in 1980 when a French policeman and a neighbor were killed.

Extraordinarily, it took police 48 hours to discover the bodies of Bakhtiar and his secretary Soroush Katibeh even though the house was under constant guard.

During the probe by anti-terrorist magistrate Jean-Louis Brugiere, Iran insistently demanded the release of Sarhadi.

Vakili Rad was arrested in Switzerland where he contacted Sarhadi, officially an administrative secretary at the Iranian embassy in Bern, a few days after the murder. Both were extradited to France.

Vakili Rad has admitted that he accompanied two assassins to Bakhtiar's house but says he did not know they planned to kill the 76-year-old ex-premier.

Hendi, a former Iranian television correspondent in Paris, is accused of giving the killers logistical assistance and faked passports. He says he did not know why they requested his help.

In Tehran, more than 1,000 black-clad women demonstrated at the French embassy on Monday against Paris' policy of banning Islamic headscarves in schools.

Iran's chief justice warned the Moslem world would not forgive France for the headscarf ban. (Reuters)



Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic talks with Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle in Banja Luka yesterday. (AP)

Moslem-Croat forces tighten squeeze on Bosnian Serbs

SRECKO LATAL
SARAJEVO

SERB forces in central Bosnia were squeezed on two fronts yesterday by government troops advancing from the east and their Croat allies pushing up from the south, a UN official said.

The fight for Kupres, in south-central Bosnia, was only one of three offensives of the Moslem-led government, but significant for its apparent coordination with Bosnian Croat forces.

Bosnia's majority Moslems and Croats formed a federation, under US auspices, last March, but until now the Croats had not joined in a coordinated military action against the Bosnia Serbs.

Paul Risley, a UN spokesman in Zagreb, Croatia, said government troops had made "significant gains" in heavy ground fighting overnight on the road between Serb-held Kupres and Moslem-

held Bugojno, to the east.

At the same time, the Croatian news agency HINA reported that Bosnian Croats had "liberated" several Serb-held villages in their overnight march north towards Kupres from their base at Tomislavgrad, and had Serb forces surrounded in another.

UN officials on Tuesday reported a heavy buildup of Croat forces in the Tomislavgrad area and said that appeared to presage a coordinated Moslem-Croat action on Kupres.

Risley could not confirm Croat media reports that the coordinated offensive had begun, however, he noted that Bosnian Serbs in Kupres had fired artillery rounds

south toward Tomislavgrad.

"Generally, Bosnian Serb shelling was often in response to previous military activity," Risley said.

In addition to the five villages reportedly taken by the Bosnian Croats, HINA said Serbs in Donji Malovan, a village on the Kupres-Tomislavgrad road, were surrounded.

There were indications that Bosnian Croats also were aiding government troops in the area of Bosanska Krupa, in western Bosnia, said Lt. Col. Tim Spicer, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo.

"There is heavy fighting in the suburbs," Spicer said. He could not confirm a government army report that government troops

had taken the northern part of the town.

Reliable government sources said the commanders of the mostly Moslem Bosnian government army and of the Bosnian Croat militia were to meet yesterday to plan further cooperation.

There were few details of the overnight pincer action by the Moslems and Croats in the Kupres-Bugojno area, nor information on the status of civilians in the front-line areas. UN military and journalists often are denied access to combat areas, and the latest fighting is spread over numerous, rapidly shifting fronts.

Entry of the Croat militia in support of the Moslem-led army would give them an overwhelming manpower advantage over the Serbs and could accelerate an already dramatic shift of momentum.

Sihanouk tells tourists to avoid Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) — Cambodia's head of state warned tourists to avoid his country as the bodies of three Western hostages killed by Khmer Rouge rebels were recovered, bound and shot, from graves found near a southern rebel base yesterday.

King Norodom Sihanouk, saying Cambodia is "clearly insecure", joined foreign embassies in advising tourists to avoid Cambodia, shortly before the bodies were recovered at Vine Mountain, 150 km south of Phnom Penh.

"I condemn with the greatest severity the contemptible and unpardonable murderers who are responsible for the deaths of these three young gentlemen," Sihanouk said in a statement yesterday morning.

They and three ethnic Vietnamese and an unknown number of Cambodians were marched to nearby Vine Mountain at gunpoint. The three Vietnamese and two Cambodians are also said to have been executed.

The bodies of the Western hostages were being taken to Phnom Penh in wooden coffins last night. Their deaths had been confirmed by the Cambodian government on Tuesday.

Information Minister Ieng Mouly said yesterday the Westerners' bodies were found in three graves, about one km from the Vine Mountain base once held by Khmer Rouge General Noun Paet.

Paet, said to have ordered their execution in September, escaped the base after it was overrun by troops last week.

A senior Cambodian army officer said yesterday that the Westerners' bodies were bound with rope and had been shot at close range.

German kidnappers 'seemed aimless'

WIESBADEN (Reuters) — Two convicts arrested after a two-day rampage of kidnapping and robbery across Germany appeared to have had little idea of where they were going or what they wanted, police said yesterday.

The men, a former east German army commando jailed for beheading a bar owner and a Swiss man jailed for armed robbery, surrendered separately to police on Tuesday after being surrounded in woods near Driedorf north of Frankfurt.

About 400 police, along with special GSG-9 commandos, armoured cars, 50 tracker dogs, helicopters and countless reporters had taken part in the whirlwind 1,000-km chase through six German states.

Since Monday the convicts had stolen cars, taken and released a total of seven hostages, robbed 250,000 marks (\$170,000) from a bank using police officers as shields

and exchanged gunfire with their pursuers.

The former commando, Raymond Albert, 32, and his Swiss accomplice Gerhard Polak, 35, had been on the run for three weeks after breaking out of a Hamburg jail.

The chase had taken them from Hesse in the west to Saxony, Brandenburg and Thuringia in the east and then back to Hesse.

Polak was captured on Tuesday afternoon, his bag full of bank notes, carrying a gun and what turned out to be a dummy hand grenade which the kidnappers had repeatedly held out of car windows. Albert, regarded as the more dangerous of the two, surrendered shortly after 10 p.m., firing a shot into the cold night air and walking towards a police halogen light with his hands up. He had stripped himself to the waist.

White House gunman may be charged with attempted assassination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prosecutors are considering charging a Colorado man with attempted assassination after finding new evidence indicating that he intended to kill President Clinton when he opened fire on the White House, an official said yesterday.

The official, who is familiar with the investigation, said testimony from a least one witness and papers found in Francisco Martin Duran's truck have prosecutors "looking at broadening the charges" against Duran.

A former colleague at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado told reporters Francisco Martin

Duran had talked with him several times about plans to shoot President Clinton.

"He used to come over to my house and he used to talk a lot about the government, how it had screwed him over... and stuff like assassinating the president," David Millis said Tuesday.

Duran is charged with four felonies in Saturday's semiautomatic rifle attack on the White House. Some 20 to 30 shots were fired, but no one was injured. Bystanders tackled Duran.

The charges against do not include attempting to kill the president. But based on the statements

by Millis to the FBI and papers found in Duran's truck, prosecutors are now considering adding attempted assassination to the four felony charges filed against Duran, the official said.

Among the papers law enforcement officials found were a map with the words "kill the prez" on it, the Washington Post daily quoted sources as saying. Millis, 20, who now works in the laundry department at the Colorado Springs hotel, told the AP in an interview in Colorado that he never thought Duran would carry out his threat.

"I didn't think he was serious. I

thought he was full of hot air," Millis said.

In a paid-for interview broadcast Tuesday night on US television, Millis said he now believes that Duran "definitely was trying to kill the president."

Duran refused to go on with a cursory pre-trial mental evaluation Tuesday.

But his attempt to avoid the exam, sought by prosecutors to determine whether Duran is competent to aid in his defense, faltered Tuesday. Prosecutors suggested an evaluation would be completed yesterday and be available for a preliminary hearing today.

Leigh Kenny, Duran's public defender, filed an emergency motion to US Magistrate Deborah Robinson asking to delay the exam until after the preliminary hearing. After Robinson denied the motion, Kenny immediately appealed to a US District Court judge, who also denied it.

At the appeal hearing, Assistant US Attorney John Facciola said a psychiatrist had started to examine Duran but the 26-year-

old defendant refused to go on.

"She spoke to Mr. Duran," Facciola said of the psychiatrist. "He said that in light of the action by his counsel he would not speak to her."

In an interview with The Detroit News, President Clinton indicated he didn't believe he was the target of the bullets, which were fired from Pennsylvania Avenue and hit the north side of the White House and the West Wing press briefing room. Clinton was in the White House at the time.

"I just don't think in a free society you can have the president of the country kind of hiding in the sand, and just wall him off in the White House," Clinton said.

"We will take appropriate security measures (but) if you wall off the White House and put a president in a bubble, you've already given a victory to the people who would do such things," he said.

If convicted of all counts, Duran could be sentenced to as much as 35 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million.

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A single-breasted plaid blazer from Castro reaches the thigh; many of the skirts in the collection reach that point, too.

Last of the rules broken

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

TO BE brutally frank, the photographs of Castro's new winter collection look much better than the actual garments paraded on the runway.

Other than a minimalist group of soft fabric pants suits inspired by the garb of Chinese laborers, the bulk of the collection made one think of something plucked out of a grab-bag or an iconoclastic hotchpotch, which in this case offered mismatched prints and colors that broke the few rules left to be broken.

Perhaps the challenge of producing 13 distinct groups proved too daunting for designers Tzafra Perlmutter and Dahlia Kapuzza; or maybe the influences of the street, strong factors in many collections, were simply too jarring.

Layered ensembles that combined multi-prints, stripes, checks and different colored solids were more nauseating than shocking, though in all fairness many individual items in all categories of clothing were attractive and would have been more so if teamed with something else.

The ubiquitous pinafore in micro-mini, midi and maxi versions surfaced in several groups, but the more dominant item was the manish, single-breasted blazer with high cut wide revers.

In fact anyone venturing out to

restock a wardrobe for winter would be well advised to start with a blazer. Castro's price range is NIS 349 to NIS 529.

Because the firm caters primarily to a young clientele, Castro has hiked most skirt lengths to mid-thigh and higher, but for those with more conservative tastes, there are mid-calf and ankle-length options.

Although the collection purports to have a Twenties ambience, its nostalgia or retro input seems to be much more wide-ranging, with resurrections from just about every fashion era of the century. Thus there are romantic, oversized tunic shirts; crossover blouses tied at the back or the side; diaphanous tops; exaggerated flounces; an abundance of lace trims; vests in a variety of widths and lengths; cropped rib sweaters; cuffed stovetop trousers; the pairing of maxi-length swagger coats with tight-fitting micro-mini dresses; pants and jackets with seams emphasized by double stitching; a revival of bankers' stripes and tartans; loose-fitting crushed velvet dresses with empire-line bodices... and the list goes on.

There are very few bright colors. Other than coats and jackets, no Castro garment costs more than NIS 269.

OFF THE SHELF MARTHA MEISELS

YOUR home or office can be enhanced by a life-sized suit of armor imported by a furniture firm called Da Vinci.

A news release refers to the new import as "authentic knights' armor from the Middle Ages, suitable as a furniture accessory in home, office, etc."

Questioning the word "authentic," I was told the armor is newly handmade in Spain by a craftsman whose family has been in the business continuously since the Middle Ages.

Though people were shorter of stature in medieval Europe, each suit of imported armor stands a tall 1.90 m. (about 6 feet), including its base, and weighs about 33 kilos.

These knights of the realm will not rust away. They are made of stainless steel and trimmed with hammered copper.

Prices range from NIS 7,500 to NIS 12,000 per suit, depending on your choice among five styles. You can also pick your knight's weapon - spear, sword, axe, etc.

I'm told that at least three suits have been sold here. They are available at Da Vinci furniture shops in Tel Aviv, Herzliya Pituah and Petah Tikva. For more details, call the importer at 03-924-3766.

IF YOUR tastes run to the modern rather than the medieval, how about a water faucet with remote control?

The local engineers of Gome, importer of Damixa faucets from Denmark, have improved on the originals by developing an electronic device for turning water on and off from a distance of five meters. In the event of a power failure, the faucets can be switched to manual operation.

The remote control costs about NIS 2,500, and the accompanying Damixa faucet set ranges from NIS 600 to NIS 1,200. Gome invested NIS 300,000 in its development and will show it off this month and next month at international exhibitions.

Sounds impressive? But wait a minute. What is the need for remote control, since you have to stand close to the sink to use the water? Yuval Zur, general manager of Gome, tells me that one purpose is to aid those handicapped people who are unable to turn a faucet on and off manually or adjust the water temperature. He says it might be particularly helpful for attendants caring for the handicapped in institutions.

In an ordinary home, Zur suggests, some parents might want it to shut off certain faucets so children would be unable to play with water unsupervised.

Besides, he continues, the device is appropriate for the electronically sophisticated home in which television sets, VCRs, air conditioners, window shutters and



even kitchen-cabinet doors can be operated by remote control.

The Gome invention requires a small, 24-volt electrical unit under the sink, while the hand-held remote box is battery operated.

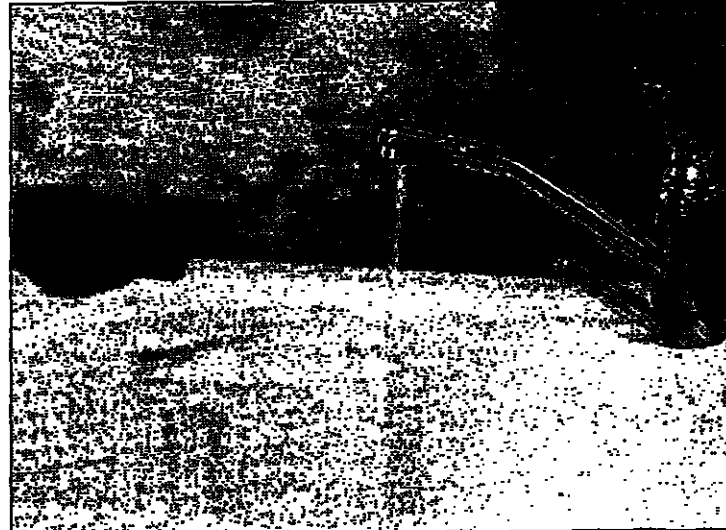
IT'S A RELIEF to learn that customers who buy a genuine Jacuzzi brand home whirlpool bath at the Super Ceramic import chain will get a gift set of terry-cloth towels and robes from the House of Jacuzzi in Italy.

After paying NIS 21,500 to NIS 37,000 for the bathroom Jacuzzi with Turkish sauna, who has money for towels? The white robes and towels are embroidered in gold with the Jacuzzi name.

SOME PRODUCTS give poor taste a bad name. Such is the latest cotton tunic shirt from Chevignon of Tel Aviv. The women's shirt is made from a pair of men's briefs, with the fly-front prominently situated near the neckline. Just think what Dr. Freud - or Dr. Ruth - would have to say about this.

The briefs-for-the-bosom come only in white or gray. Their designer said he was inspired by the current fashion of young women wearing men's boxer shorts.

The price of the fly-front shirt is almost as outrageous as the design. This scanty, clingy shirt sells for NIS 190 at Chevignon's two Tel Aviv shops, 29 Bograshov and 288 Dizengoff.



(clockwise) For those with a taste for knights in shining armor, a furniture firm called Da Vinci offers a life-size suit; if you have ultramodern taste, Gome offers remotely controlled Damixa faucets; babies like to taste everything, even silver baubles from Hazorfim; and women with no taste can now wear men's briefs on their bosoms.

an expandable steel wristband costs NIS 20,010; the price is NIS 16,770 with a blue crocodile strap. The watch is available at select jewelry stores, including the Padani chain.

FEW LOCAL babies are born with silver spoons in their mouths, but you can remedy the situation with a gift of a sterling-silver bell, rattle or pacifier.

The new line of baby gifts is made by silversmiths Hazorfim of Tel Aviv.

The bells and rattles cost NIS 85 to NIS 175 and are made with smooth surfaces and rounded edges, should babies actually play with them. There is also an all-silver pacifier, NIS 102, intended as an ornament.

These shiny baubles for babies are available at Hazorfim's shops in Tel Aviv, Bnei Brak and Jerusalem and at some 100 other authorized stores throughout the country.

Beams, bags and alarms put drivers' lives in the safe lane

MOTERING
JOEL GORDIN

THE pace of safety improvements for cars has been accelerating rapidly.

Developments such as the inflatable air bag and anti-lock (ABS) brakes are spreading from luxury and sports cars to the family mini. This is as it should be, because passengers in small cars are usually more vulnerable in a bad crash.

The big difference now is that safety has at last become a selling feature close to the top of the manufacturer's agenda. Under pressure from consumer organizations and legislators, manufacturers have had to throw out one of the oldest clichés in the business: "Safety does not sell."

You could hardly blame car-makers for being a bit cynical

about the safety issue in the past. For years, almost every poll had motorists stating that safety and security topped their list of priorities.

But year after year, when it came to buy, they opted for alloy wheels and fancy spoilers rather than ABS brakes.

The answer may be legislation requiring the installation of proven safety technology as it is developed. The problem is that legislators are often years behind engineers.

Ideally, the best way is for a well-informed motoring public to be aware of important advances. Unfortunately, the subject is so technical it is sometimes difficult for the ordinary consumer to know what is best.

At any rate, here are examples of two important safety features. One is the better-known SIPS (side impact protection system) and the other is the relatively new

Drowsy Driver Avoidance System.

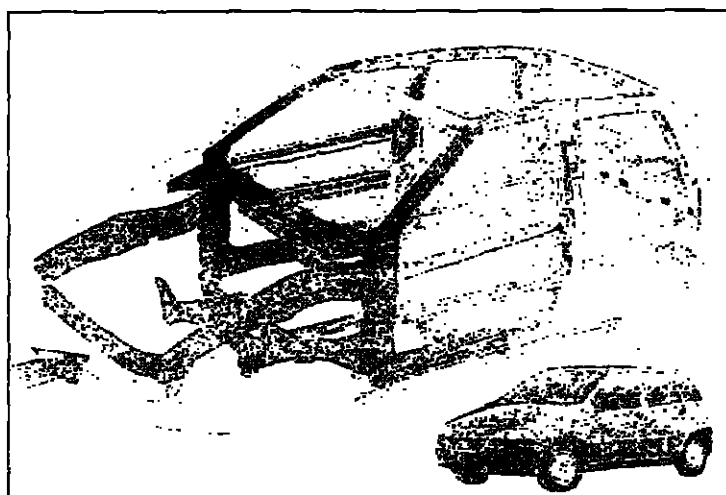
Even large cars offer little protection against the 90-degree or T-bone impact that accounts for 20 percent of serious accidents involving injury, especially at intersections.

Unlike front and rear collisions, where hood and trunk act as buffers, the main problem in T-bones is the absence of space between the occupants and the point of impact.

SIPS first appeared on the Volvo 850 two years ago, designed as an integral part of the structure.

Energy created by a T-bone crash impact is distributed in the Volvo all over the passenger compartment through strengthened side pillars, seat, floor and roof across to the opposite side of the car.

It was perfected on the 900 series, and Volvo is experimenting with "side" air bags.



Among the safety features in the Fiat Punto are side-impact beams in the doors, copied from the Corsa.

Other manufacturers have yet to take side-impact protection as far as Volvo. But side-door reinforcing beams are being installed

to provide added protection for driver and passengers; they join

air bags as the latest safety devices on new models.

Developing safety devices is expensive, so automakers tend to introduce them in their larger cars - where profits are higher - and in time incorporate them into smaller models. The Corsa, for example, was launched last November with side-impact beams in the doors, and other small cars such as the Fiat Punto have followed suit. Minis are now expected to be as safe as their size permits.

FALLING ASLEEP at the wheel is one of the main causes of traffic deaths. Toyota has developed a new safety technology known as the Drowsy Driver Avoidance System.

A driver's alertness is monitored through the use of a sensor attached to the driver by a wristband. This sensor measures the driver's pulse rate. The data is then relayed to a computer which

is programmed to determine the driver's level of alertness.

According to fluctuations in the pulse rate, the computer is able to measure alertness levels and detect whether a driver has become drowsy. When the level drops below a certain point, the computer triggers an alarm system.

The alarm system has three responses that each react to a different level of drowsiness. At the first level, the computer activates an audio alarm which cautions the driver that he or she is becoming drowsy and needs to take a break. If drowsiness increases one step further, a mechanism in the driver's seat is activated, shaking the seat strongly to alert the driver that a good rest is needed.

If the driver fails to heed the first two alarms and the alertness level continues to drop, the system automatically stops the car.

This patent is currently available only in Japan.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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NIS 200 for pair, o.b.o. 02-719155.
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MINI-WOK - and accessories, new in box, NIS 50. 02-242749.
WASHING MACHINE - AEG Lavamat, NIS 200. 02-343882.

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A promising turn

THOSE who expected the Casablanca conference to produce concrete results have been disappointed. No new trade agreements between Israeli and Arab countries have been signed, no business deals between Israeli and Arab firms have been consummated, and no announcements of foreign investments in the region have been made. Even the establishment of the proposed regional development bank has not been announced.

True, the concluding statement of the conference in effect signals the end of the secondary and tertiary Arab boycotts, which deterred foreign companies from doing business with Israel. But there was no need for a splashy conference to attain this. Measured by the standard criteria of cost-effectiveness, the huge expense and extravagant Israeli presence did not justify the immediate results.

But such conferences should not be measured by immediate results. They are successful if they serve as historic milestones; if they signify a turning point in relations between countries; if they reflect the smashing of barriers. By these criteria, the conference was indeed a resounding success.

The meeting of Arab and Israeli delegations in a spirit of amity and cooperation must indeed be considered an historic milestone. The relations between some of the Arab regimes and Israel have assumed new meaning, and - above all - the barrier against dealing with Israel has been lifted. And since the refusal of the Arab world to recognize Israel's legitimacy has been the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict, this new legitimization bodes

well. But it is a mistake to believe that Casablanca is more than a beginning. What the conference has shown is that some governments and businessmen in the Arab world are ready to accept Israel as part of the Middle East scenery and do business with it. But two essential developments are still missing. None of the Arab regimes in Israel's vicinity has even begun to educate their nations on the acceptance of Israel as a permanent fixture in the area. And none has shown the slightest inclination to slow down the arms race.

True, the access to world news is now so prevalent that it is difficult to hide contacts between Israeli and Arab leaders. People throughout the Middle East know about the Casablanca conference, if not from their own media then through CNN. But until Israel's existence is accepted in schools as well as in royal palaces, the prospects of peace are dim. Nor are the unprecedented Arab expenditures on arms - reaching \$70 billion since the Gulf War - compatible with professions of peaceful intent.

Moreover, the new, open amiability has much to do with Israel's declared willingness to withdraw from Judea and Samaria, and its implied readiness to evacuate the Golan and southern Lebanon in exchange for a peace agreement with Syria. It is almost impossible to imagine such withdrawals without a concomitant flaring of large-scale violence and terrorism. Only if the atmosphere established in Casablanca can withstand the strain of the implementation of these withdrawals will the conference be truly judged a success.

Another new beginning

MOZAMBIQUE has for years been regarded as an African basket case, like Angola or Liberia, mired in one of those never-ending civil wars whose issues even the combatants have forgotten. Even when the United Nations brokered a cease-fire in 1992 and said elections would be held, it sounded like a paper exercise concocted in some back room, far from the decrepit country.

It is all the more pleasantly surprising, therefore, that the elections just held there appear to have been a resounding success, drawing high praise from international monitors.

In a country that has scarcely a road, bridge, telephone or electricity line still intact, between 80 percent to 90% of the 6.3 million eligible voters came to the polls. Following a last-minute crisis, in which the main opposition called a boycott as the polls opened, the government pulled out all the stops to get them back into the process, and even extended the voting to allow opposition supporters to catch up. Mozambique may be the first to demonstrate that the remarkable multi-race elections in South Africa can be an inspiration to others on the shattered continent.

That said, Mozambique remains in an appalling condition. More than 600,000 people died in 15 years of civil war, leaving the inevitable trail of bitterness, mistrust and vengeance. The country is barely surviving on foreign handouts. To some extent, this former Portuguese colony was, like

Angola, a victim of the Cold War. Its Frelimo government adopted the fashionable Marxist-Leninist cant of the Third World's newly-independent nations. Its rightist Renamo rebels were funded and armed by South Africa and the West.

Unfortunately, as with most of Africa, the "victim" was more than willing to play the big-power game for the cynical self-interests of those in control, or of those who wished to be in control. The end of the Cold War has exposed just how little say "the people" had in such places.

The West and the United Nations have now taken commendable steps to repair the damage by underwriting the peace process and the election. Frelimo and Renamo must now play their part. They have made a praiseworthy start in running as free, fair and non-violent an election as is possible in such circumstances. But all too often, politicians give the false impression that an election is the end of the road, rather than the beginning.

Such a crisis of expectations is already evident in South Africa, where many are becoming restive over what they see as the slow rate of change. In Mozambique, voters this week have been making such comments as "the election will solve most of our problems" and "now a lot of investors will come." Such are the results of wasted years without education, without stability or reality.

Africa's politicians have for decades stolen the lives of generations of their people. An election marks only the beginning of payback time.



Why Dabsha happened

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

AT the weekend, the country watched a videotape of Hizbullah fighters storming the outer defenses of a rigid Israeli Maginot-style outpost in southern Lebanon, and was startled by their bravery. The audacity of one attacker in raising the terrorist organization's flag was awesome - the more so as IDF soldiers and their officers in their bunkers failed to launch a counterattack.

Calumny and bitter recriminations have been heaped on the men involved. Two officers are to be court-martialed for alleged misconduct under fire, and five other soldiers are to face charges relating to the incident. Army veterans all over the country are sadly shaking their heads, asking: "What has happened to our sons? We never behaved like that."

It's all too easy to join the chorus of condemnation. OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai called the incident a "localized breakdown," and claimed all was well everywhere else.

That is not so. Other recent failures in the armed forces have been swept under the carpet. The problem goes much deeper than a few soldiers who failed to do their duty.

The clue to what has gone wrong in the IDF is clearly visible in the faces of the Hizbullah soldiers. These men are powerfully motivated by a national, religious and historic aim: to wipe Israel off the map, capture Jerusalem and establish it as the capital of a Moslem state.

It's the same look we saw yet again on television recently in archive film showing the faces of Israeli paratroopers storming Ammunition Hill in 1967. They went on to capture the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, the focus and fountainhead of Jewish dreams for over 2,000 years.

It's the look we saw on the faces of Israeli soldiers and airmen as they won their stunning victories in the Sinai and the Golan Heights in 1967, and again in 1973, when they turned what seemed like defeat into victory.

Back then, every soldier, every officer was driven by a national and historic Zionist goal: building and defending a Jewish nation where they would walk and live as proud, free Jews.

What do we see today? Israeli soldiers are taught to make "tactical withdrawals" - or, to put it crudely, to run away.

It happened at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza, where an Arab mob burned more than 50 buses; and recently near the settlement of Netzarim, where

jeering Hamas men mocked the retreating soldiers and took possession of tear and smoke grenades, a secret map and a flag they had left behind. The soldiers were ashamed and humiliated. But they had been ordered not to resist.

When soldiers hear about withdrawal from here, there and everywhere, can they be blamed for their lack of fighting morale?

The soldiers aren't stupid. They know why they are ordered to withdraw: to prevent Arafat getting angry and ending the peace process.

ALMOST DAILY, 19-year-old soldiers in Lebanon read in the press or hear on TV and radio that talks are under way about withdrawal from the security zone, withdrawal from the Golan Heights, withdrawal in the Arava, withdrawal from the settlements in the Gaza area, withdrawal from Judea and Samaria, even from eastern Jerusalem.

Who can blame them for showing lack of morale and motivation in defending a shrinking homeland?

There appears to be a national brainwashing effort going on from the prime minister on down, echoed by much of the media. This is the message: peace will be achieved by abandoning places like the security zone in Lebanon.

Who can chide soldiers for thinking: "What's the point of risking our lives if we're going to make a tactical withdrawal from here soon? Why get killed for nothing?"

The soldiers in Lebanon see how hopeless their situation is. Instead of carrying out preventive strikes at Hizbullah bases deep in the Bekaa valley, or even northwards, just beyond the security zone, the army is stuck in fortified positions, like the French were in their Maginot line in 1939, and Israel was in the Bar Lev line on the Suez Canal in 1973. We all know what happened to that line in the Yom Kippur War.

Now we have the Barak line in the Lebanon.

Israeli soldiers in Lebanon are sitting ducks. No wonder the Hizbullah men laughed as they attacked. They knew there would be no reprisals, other than occasional, ineffective air attacks.

The buck stops not with our youngsters, but with the very top of the pyramid, with the (part-time) defense minister. Back in the 1950s, Moshe Dayan bitterly criticized Yitzhak Rabin for having no initiative as a commander. He called him an "activist in retrospect." Nothing has changed.

It is the same Rabin, wearing his premier's hat, who says, again and again: "Israel can take risks in the cause of peace because its army is stronger than ever."

Is it? These are the symptoms: retreat in the face of mob rule; soldiers not carrying out their orders; senior officers from one of the country's finest units failing to accept responsibility in the Tze'elim tragedy; another crack unit's failure to free Nahshon Wachman. Can Rabin pretend there is no disease?

Can he be so sure of the IDF's strength, when its budget is forever being slashed because we are going to have peace with all our enemies? When even the air force is struggling to maintain its qualitative edge? When some of our crack tank units have been put into deep freeze?

Our young men and women are as patriotic, brave and steadfast as their fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts ever were. They are as ready to defend their homeland as previous generations.

But when they see generals in the high command playing at politics instead of concentrating on running the army, can they be blamed for losing heart?

When they see their prime minister dismantling their homeland for an agenda now supported by less than half the Jews in the country, if public opinion polls can be believed, can we really be surprised by what happened at Dabsha last weekend?

It is clear that we are crossing a red line in national morale. Before we send soldiers to the guillotine, our army commanders should think carefully when they call what happened at Dabsha a "local breakdown." And our prime minister should swallow his pride and look rationally at where he is leading the nation.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

POSTSCRIPT

WE ATTRACT a lot of wacky letters here at the Post; the wackiest usually get passed on to Postscripts.

These letters are almost always from the US, Western Europe or Africa, they carry disturbed messages with a messianic, religio-political or otherwise fanatic bent, often written in crayon and they sometimes go on for tens of pages (one classic "letter" was a hand-scrawled scroll over eight meters long).

This is doofy, end-of-the-world stuff, threatening, lurid, psychotic and almost always anonymous.

We recently got another missive from a friend out there. On the front of the envelope were the words "Do not steal"; on the back, "Please acknowledge receipt to prevent theft and write 'Do not steal' on envelope."

The letter, in pink and brown crayon, was short but otherwise typical:

"Dear Jerusalem Post
I have learned over an illegal lethal electronic hookup that Yitzhak Rabin the Prime Minister of the Jewish State of Israel is a German Catholic Nazi Communist and that the High Court has declared him an imposter and has returned Israel to biblical law which means the territories once again belong to Israel. Can anyone confirm this and help me get rid of this hookup?"

Nicolae's gilded, eternal nest

JONATHAN SCHELL

NICOLAE Ceausescu, by far the harshest of the Communist dictators in Eastern Europe, asserted not long before his fall, in December of 1989, that communists would stay in power in Romania until apples grew on pear trees.

He also built a monument to his mistaken belief. It is the Palace of the People, the largest building ever constructed in a communist land, and very possibly the ugliest building ever built by anyone. By comparison, the gloomy, crumbling social-realist skyscrapers that Stalin built in Moscow are models of delicacy and good taste.

Now, four years after Ceausescu's fall, the palace stands unfinished and all but empty on its treeless hill in the center of Bucharest.

Like the Tower of Babel, the Great Pyramids or the Great Wall of China, it seems destined to transcend its origins and, in some awful way, to enter the realm of legend - a spur not so much to political as to philosophical reflection on the insatiability of human ambition, on the uncertainty of human fortune, and, above all, on the transience of human endeavor.

In ancient times, travelers visited the Seven Wonders of the World. They were objects of awe and admiration.

The Palace of the People, on the other hand, belongs in a pantheon of

A visit to Romania's Palace of the People is an education in evasion and amnesia

horrors, which is something our waning century has produced in as great abundance as the ancients produced wonders.

The Czech writer Milan Kundera observed that a principal goal of the communist regimes of Eastern Europe was to produce forgetfulness - of history, of culture, even of one's personal past.

But most of these regimes also wanted a few things to be remembered, as demonstrated by their penchants for naming cities after living politicians and for placing embalmed ones on public view.

Stalin's cult of the personality, in which he was compulsively worshipped not only as the greatest statesman in the world but also as its greatest philosopher, economist and even philologist, was the first flower of this tendency.

The cult of Ceausescu's personality, which reached its apogee in the late 1980s, was a late bloomer. The Palace of the People, which was to be his personal residence, was to be a monument to the durability not just of Romanian communism, but to his personal greatness.

AS IT happens, the palace testified to another, even more fundamental, delusion of immortality.

The only building in the world, with more floor space is the Pentagon. The palace stood in an interesting relation to its sole superior in square feet. Roughly half of it is buried underground. In other words, it is a gigantic nuclear-bomb shelter.

According to rumor, Ceausescu noted that its site was one of the few places in Bucharest undamaged by the great earthquake of 1977, and decided that this was the best place to escape the consequences of nuclear war.

Anyone who knows the first thing about nuclear weapons, however, realizes that, for a great nuclear power, vaporizing a conspicuous target like this one to any depth desired is child's play.

Ceausescu's hopes for surviving the apocalypse were as vain as his hopes for the survival of his regime, and for immortal personal glory.

Visitors to the palace today (the building is closed to the public, and special permission is required) are given a handsome brochure extolling its virtues as a conference center.

The passage describing its construction reads as follows: "The whole structure is the result of a tremendous national effort. Designed and built entirely by Romanian specialists, the building received a completely new destination after December, 1989, following the gradual completion of work."

Neither in this masterpiece of evasion nor anywhere else in the entire brochure, designed to lure customers to the convention center, are Ceausescu, Romanian communism or, for that matter, underground bomb shelters mentioned.

Communism in Romania has gone to its grave, but not the art of forgetting.

(Newsday)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEPARATE BUT EQUAL

Sir, - Despite my pack-a-day addiction, I too applaud and enthusiastically support the new "smokeless office" bill that our government recently implemented. For too long confrontations between smoker and nonsmoker have resulted in ugly, often barbarous displays of inconsideration and selfishness. Now, finally, borders have been established and, if the law works as it is designed to, relations between the two should vastly improve.

However, what must not be lost sight of is that the new law in no way discriminates against smokers, nor does it ban the sale, purchase or use of tobacco products. Rather, it acknowledges that our society is composed of two groups - those who smoke and those who don't - and guarantees specific rights to both. Consciously or unconsciously, our lawmakers have evoked a legal principle articulated many years ago by the Supreme Court: separate but equal. Unlike the American version, however, Israel's, I believe, has a good chance of being successful.

Providing, that is, that we recognize the "smokeless office" bill to be currently only a few steps off the starting block. The real work now lies before our legislators as they polish and embellish this law with the requisite amendments and footnotes:

(a) a reduction in the health and life insurance premiums for nonsmokers, reflecting the fact that they are no longer subject to the carcinogenic

threat and danger of secondhand smoke;

(b) a modification of those laws governing worker's rights, defining, for example, the precise frequency that stepping away from a desk for a drag or two will be permitted;

(c) the deputization of on-site personnel, granting them full authority and freedom to enforce adherence to this law throughout the organizational hierarchy in which they are employed;

(d) unambiguous, multilingual signs indicating those locations where smokers may feel free from verbal and/or physical abuse.

Unless these and other similar measures are forthcoming and quickly, the "smokeless office" bill is destined to be a toothless, gaping tiger of little roar and even less bite.

BARRY NEWMAN

Givat Shimon.

HADASSAH CONVENTION

Sir, - The upcoming Hadassah Convention will open on August 7, 1995, in Jerusalem and will last one week, and not in July as stated in your report of October 24.

ELI HACHOEN

Director, Public Affairs,
Hadassah Organization in Israel

Jerusalem. Toronto, Canada.

TRUE ARAB MOTIVES

Sir, - In spite, or perhaps because, of the signing of the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, the "Palestinian" terrorist attacks have continued unabated, resulting in Israelis being killed in numbers surpassing substantially those in preceding years. Although Fatah members were also involved in those attacks, the Israeli government repeatedly put the blame on the members of Hamas and Jihad because they are opposed to the peace process.

Wouldn't it be plausible to conclude that, if the terrorists were set only on derailing the peace negotiations, they would direct their anger at their leaders as well? However, no such occurrence has as yet been reported.

In my opinion the terrorists' real intent is to wear down the Israeli government in order to extract more concessions and "goodwill gestures," and judging from the past events, this tactic has proved to be quite successful.

While there are internecine rivalries in the "Palestinian" camp, it should be obvious that when the rival parties judge that Israel is vulnerable enough to be attacked, they will join forces to do so, hoping that with external help always at the ready, they will again be joyously dancing on the roofs.

ISAAC JOSY

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I should be glad, but I dread my wife joining me

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
My wife will be arriving from Russia soon. We have been apart since I came here three years ago. My problem is that I have met another woman, also Russian, and have fallen in love.

I feel very guilty. I should be happy my wife is joining me at last, but instead I wish she weren't, because it will put an end either to my love affair or to my marriage. Or I will have to sneak around behind my wife's back, which my woman friend says she won't have. What can I do?

Russian Roulette
Somewhere in Israel

Dear RR,
Three years' separation is a long time for your wife, too. She may also have mixed feelings about this reunion. Perhaps she has had a similar experience in Russia.

Or perhaps she feels she no longer knows you. That is why it is crucial to discuss all this when she arrives. Sneaking around is no solution, even if your lover agreed. Being honest will give all three of you a better chance to work things out.

Dear Ruthie,
Thirty years ago, my husband and I decided that we didn't want to get divorced, mainly for financial reasons. We agreed that we would each lead our own lives. When the children left home, we moved into separate rooms. We even arranged separate shelves in the refrigerator, and never ate together.

Then, a few months ago, my husband got very sick; now he can no longer take care of himself. After all these years, I'm looking after his physical and emotional needs. I'm miserable, and would like to leave - but how can I, now?

Neutralized Nursemaid
Somewhere in Israel

Dear NN,
It's unfortunate that you didn't consider old age and illness when you and your husband agreed to stay married while acting divorced.

It would be wrong for you to leave your husband unattended at this point. If you can't bear the

burden, you must make other arrangements for him, as any wife would do. Or any roommate.

Dear Ruthie,
My mother-in-law has always been inconsiderate and hostile to me, but this Rosh Hashana was the last straw.

First she informed me (she didn't ask, heaven forbid) that the whole family would be spending the holiday at my house. Then I was informed what the menu would be. I must have cooked for four days straight.

Then, on the day, my mother-in-law arrived with a catered meal, claiming not to want me to have to do all the work. (This was the only decision I wasn't informed about.) After everyone had gone, I complained to my husband. All he had to say was, yes, his mother had been inconsiderate. But he added that she's his mother and welcome any time. I told him that she's never setting foot in my house again. I am so angry that I'm considering divorce.

This isn't the first time she's pulled something like this. I can't take it any more.

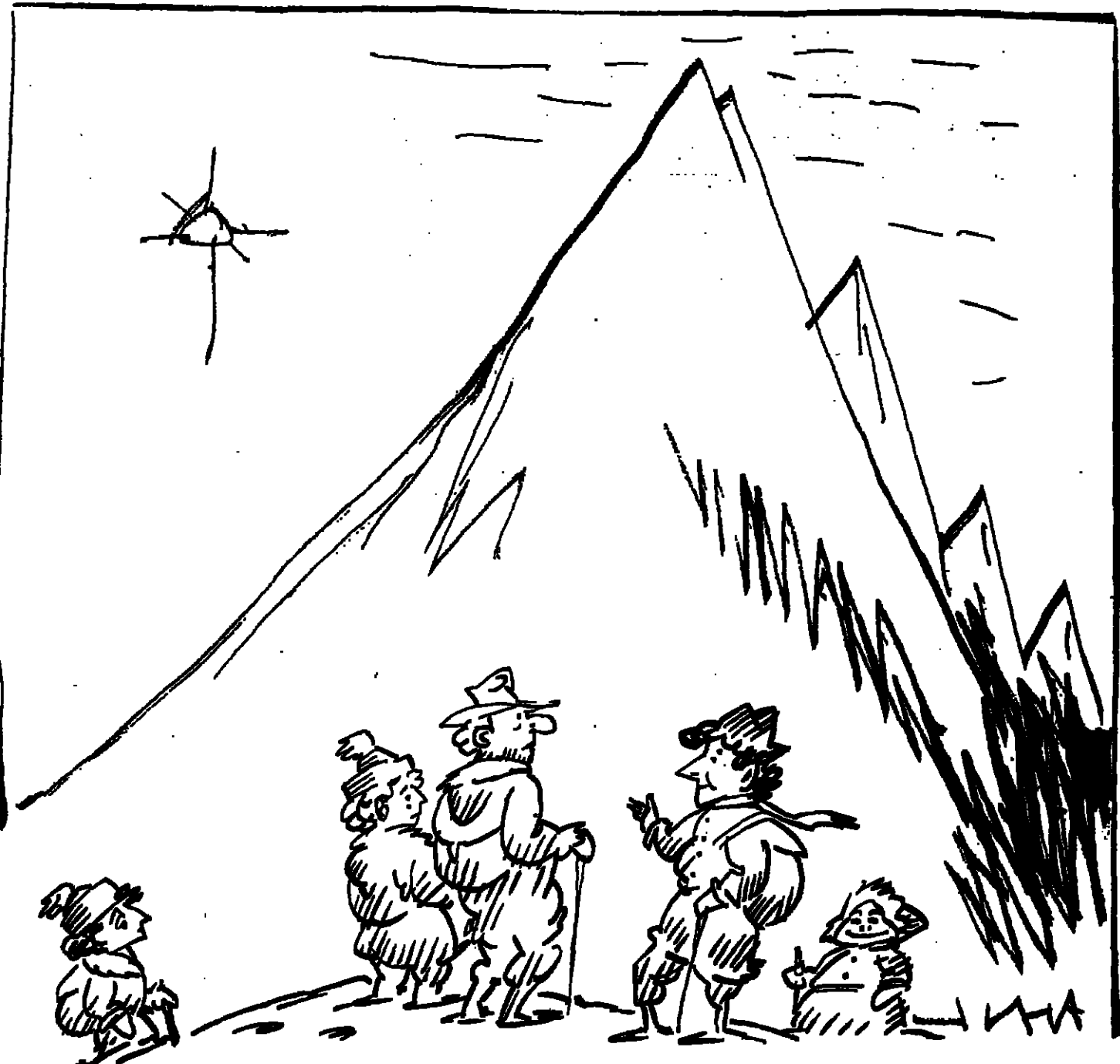
Mother-in-Law Maniacal
Haifa

Dear MM,
The problem is between you and your husband. Your mother-in-law's behavior, no matter how hostile, would be less intolerable if your husband was supportive.

His inability to form a united front with you over his mother's rudeness may be nothing more than a mechanism to protect himself from having to find fault with her. But forbidding her to enter your home isn't a realistic solution. Trying to communicate with your husband is.

If this is such a bone of contention between you that you are considering divorce, you must make that clear to him. Perhaps a little marital counseling would be in order.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



Shangri-la ... with Ma and Pa

TRAVEL
DANIEL ZIV

HELLO, welcome! Would you like milk tea or black tea?

"We'll have milk tea, thank you."

"Ohhh, but I am most sorry; we have no milk tea today."

The conversation set the tone for the rest of the trek.

As we sat at a low wooden table in an old lodge in the Nepalese Himalayan village of Jomsom, the odd exchange with our waiter, who was also the owner, the cook and the manager, marked the start of an odd family holiday.

Most children are happy to leave their parents alone by the time the latter reach the unhip age of about 45, but I had promised mine one incredible experience - a journey halfway around one of the largest mountain ranges in the world - and they probably got more than they bargained for.

The five of us set out that cool September morning: my younger sister Nomi and I, a friendly porter named Hem, and my parents, whose age was precisely the same as the average life expectancy in Nepal, though I did not mention this to them at the time.

Walking through the mountainous scenery of the Annapurna range on the first of seven days in the quiet wilderness, we quickly grew accustomed to each other's habits and preferences. Mom was wary of going uphill. Dad apprehensive about going downhill, and nearly every path seemed to go in one of those directions. Jerusalem never seemed flatter.

Nomi was terrified of leeches, a fear which only increased when my mother felt an itch while walking on a flood trail and looked down to find a bloodstained sock. And I soon learned that I had to keep a safe distance while walking behind my father. When he got into a rhythm, his hiking poles swung back indiscriminately, the sharp spokes threatening the abdominal area of anyone following close behind.

MORNINGS WERE peaceful as we set out into the gentle light, energetic and renewed. On the more difficult days, afternoons became edgy, speculation central to the general mood.

Dad: "Daniel, how much longer do ya figure till Kalopani?"
Me: "I don't know, ask Hem."
Dad: "Who's him?"
Me: "Hem, Hem."
Dad: "Oh, Hem. Hem, how much till Kalopani?"

Hem: "I think maybe 50 rupees."
Dad: "No, how far till we reach Kalopani?"
Hem: "Slowly-slowly, maybe one and half hours, I think."
Dad: "One and a half? But an hour ago you said 40 minutes."
Hem: "Yes."
Dad: (Blank stare.)

"IT'S A clear day," someone said on the third morning. We packed the ponchos into our rucksacks.

Then the rain came. It began as a drizzle, as if gently mocking us - "Buried those ponchos, huh?" - and became more intense. The downpour was considerable by the time we arrived at the Kali Gandaki River, and had washed away the regular crossing, a makeshift bridge of rocks and driftwood. We would have to cross right through the river barefoot to spare our hiking boots.

The water wasn't very deep, but the current was powerful and required that we interlock arms and cross as a human chain. The icy water was an incentive to cross quickly: it was a painful reminder of the giant snowy ridges from which it ran.

When we could feel our feet again, we made our way to the next tea stop, a thatched hut with two tables. There we met Nick, a soaked-to-the-bone British hiker going in the other direction. He warned of fallen rock up ahead. We sat in silence, growing increasingly demoralized as he described the obstacle.

"I guess you could say it's a bit tricky, yes. Rather dangerous, too. There's this very narrow ridge, see, and it's quite slippery and unpredictable due to the rain." He seemed to be enjoying this, his pleasant tone and relaxed attitude becoming somewhat annoying. "The key is simply to keep from slipping, as the drop doesn't leave much of a hope, but I don't think you should have a problem if you take it slowly."

The pass was just as Nick had described. At least he had been honest. It took a grueling 40 minutes to cross, each step carefully calculated, each of us closely eyeing the others' steps, watching for loose rock which could bring a fatal fall. It was a long way down. We stood exhausted and re-

lieved at the other end. Iodined water had never tasted so good. And we knew that the toughest part was behind us. Almost behind us.

Up ahead was an avalanche warning. We dreaded the prospect of another dangerous pass, but this time we were to cross beneath a towering cliff from which rock often comes crashing down onto the path below. We paused momentarily, listening for any sign of crumbling earth, then crossed briskly, one at a time.

Once at the other end, I looked back to see Dad, suddenly a Himalayan Indiana Jones, darting across the ridge with an unshaven face, his left hand grasping the brim of the slick jungle hat he'd brought back from Africa last year.

It was a safe passage. For the third time that day, my father made noises about reciting *gamel*, the blessing for safe deliverance from danger.

The rain would not relent, so we took shelter at the next lodge - a place so small it didn't seem to have a name - and reluctantly stayed the night.

The walls were of flimsy wood and the floors creaked. Through the slits between the floorboards I could watch the owner's wife slaving away at the wood stove in the smoke-filled kitchen downstairs. An outhouse in the back garden, just past the chickens, was newly equipped with a door, a 1x2-meter sheet of tin which one slid over the door frame once inside.

The owner distributed candles the moment darkness set in. So it was a candlelight family dinner that evening and as we sat there, muscles aching, reluctantly sipping our over-salted noodle soup, the discussion revolved around what kind of steak we would each order upon return to Kathmandu's immaculate restaurants, and which day would be best to go for dim sum at Bangkok's elaborate Oriental Hotel. Our appetite for adventure was not unlimited.

The past 24 hours had been rough by any standard, and I looked sympathetically at my parents over breakfast the next morning as they exchanged "why-am-I-putting-on-muddy-soaking-hiking-boots-at-6-a.m." stares,

probably wondering what, after all, could be bad about a lousy day at work.

THE WEATHER was kind to us after that. The sky turned a deep blue. The clouds gradually disappeared to reveal a skyline of snow-capped mountains peeking from behind the hills that bordered the green valley.

Sunshine brought out the villagers and, with them, scenes of Himalayan life: elderly women patiently sorted wheat and corn from the fields, two-year-olds harnessed to their six-year-old sisters, young porters wore faces a decade older than their years, testimony to the heavy loads they carry for days as they trudge barefoot through the mountains.

As we passed thatched houses, small children momentarily halted activities and came out to see us, hands pressed together before their faces, with the traditional greeting, "Namaste."

Trekking season hadn't yet begun, and at times it seemed we were exclusive visitors, alone to discover all that these mountains had to offer.

The villagers, for their part, were always eager to please. The owner of one well-located lodge, wishing simply to advertise a room with a view, bore a sign boasting: "You can see good Annapurna Himchuli from the room."

With a steep ascent, the trail took us to the village of Ghorepani. For the first time in days we had hot showers and a furnace by which to dry our clothes overnight.

At 5 a.m. the next day, we set out, flashlights in hand, to ascend Poon Hill, a panoramic lookout point above Ghorepani.

Darkness quickly gave way to light, and in what seemed like one brisk movement, the sun shot up from behind the hills to illuminate Dhaulagiri Mountain and the mighty Annapurnas, painting their distant white snow a gleaming gold.

As we stood at that lookout point, the distractions - torn ligaments, dehydration, conjunctivitis - seemed not to matter. But for my parents, I fear, it was a case of this year Club Med, next year Club Med.

Still, they did one incredible job. I hope that 25 years from now, if my kids ask me to go out on a limb and up into the clouds, I, too, will be brave enough to rise to the challenge.

Detroit CEOs had no tigers in their tanks

BOOKS

W. JOSEPH CAMPBELL

COMEBACK: The Fall and Rise of the American Automobile Industry, by Paul Ingrassia and Joseph B. White. Simon & Schuster. 480 pp., \$25.

ONE of the more remarkable developments in corporate America in recent years has been an unmasking of the giants of industry, of the men who, through guile or good fortune, reached the top at large companies, only to demonstrate they lacked the skills and vision to run them well.

In the past few years, a number of prominent top executives have been stripped of their power, perquisites and extraordinary salaries because their ineffective leadership diminished profits or even caused losses.

Nowhere has managerial ineptitude been more towering - or the falls from power more stunning - than in the American automobile industry.

Although the book's title suggests an analytical account of the woes and recoveries at Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, *Comeback: The Fall and Rise of the American Automobile Industry* focuses on the incompetence that drove America's largest car manufacturers close to disaster.

Comeback is rather disjointed, jumping as it does from a chapter about GM to one about Ford, to one about Chrysler.

Here and there, *Comeback* makes a bow to Japanese carmakers, who empowered production-line workers to make quality automobiles, an approach belatedly copied by their US counterparts.

Despite its rambling structure, *Comeback* is engaging, fast-paced and well reported.

The authors won a Pulitzer Prize for their reporting for the *Wall Street Journal* about GM's management upheaval in 1992.

They lapse into cliché from time to time, but nonetheless present a lively, compelling account enriched by numerous revealing profiles, many of savvy middle managers.

In a real sense, the auto industry's failings were self-inflicted by flawed leadership from the likes of former GM chairman Roger Smith and Robert C. Stempel, and Donald E. Petersen, the mean-tempered top executive who was ousted at Ford.

Lee Iacocca of Chrysler is portrayed in *Comeback* as greedy, overweening and duplicitous.

He was prone to bash the Japanese publicly but willing to work with them in joint ventures.

He even wanted to sell Chrysler to Fiat.

The book's best chapters are about GM and how Smith, during the mid-1980s, undertook an ill-considered program to prepare the corporate giant for the 21st century, only to jeopardize the company's future.

Smith's program emphasized high-tech robotics and other gimmicky that often went awry, at the cost of billions of dollars.

Emblematic of the failings were assembly-line robots that wound up spray-painting each other instead of the cars rolling by.

Smith's regime was such a catalog of missteps and miscalculations that it's astonishing he lasted as long as he did.

He retired in 1990, his reputation largely intact. In reading *Comeback*, one muses why GM's board was so docile for so long.

The directors didn't stir until they ousted Smith's successor, Stempel, who appeared indifferent to, or paralyzed by, the company's mounting troubles and red ink.

Why the boards at the Detroit carmakers tolerated incompetence for so long isn't adequately explored in *Comeback*.

But that's a fairly small flaw in an otherwise revealing book.

(The Hartford Courant)

London lights up

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

CHRISTMAS is coming to London. The holiday lights are to be switched on along London's Oxford Street on November 10. On Regent Street they appear on November 14 and on Bond Street, November 17.

On November 27, there's a London Welcomes Father Christmas Parade, with marching bands, animated floats, celebrities, dancers, acrobats, jugglers and clowns from Piccadilly, along Regent and Oxford streets to Marble Arch.

On December 8, the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is lit up and carols are sung around it each evening until December 24. On January 1, there's a giant parade from Westminster Bridge to Berkeley Square.

OFKIM TOURS is offering \$100 for shopping to passengers taking advantage of its after-Christmas shopping package to New York.

The price of the package, which includes the round-trip airfare and seven nights in a Manhattan hotel, is \$899.

LUFTHANSA HAS announced a special round-trip price of \$379 to Munich. The price is only for the company's Tuesday flight and is valid for departures through February 1.

The minimum stay is six days.

and the maximum is one calendar month.

EL AL has inaugurated a weekly flight to Leipzig, in former East Germany. The flight, in a Boeing 757, leaves Ben-Gurion every Wednesday morning. The company has also added a second weekly flight to Nairobi and Johannesburg. Flights now leave every Monday and Thursday.

THE APPROACH of winter is apparently putting no damper on travel to Turkey, at least for Die-senhau, which is offering vacation packages in Istanbul and Antalya.

Prices for Istanbul, including flight, hotel and breakfast, start at \$319 for three nights, \$339 for four nights and \$417 for seven nights.

Prices in Antalya, which include half-board, start at \$255 for three nights, \$280 for four nights and \$377 for seven nights, with a \$20 surcharge for weekend departures.

ISRAELIS WISHING to make reservations in hotels of the Ramada chain around the world can contact the company's world-wide reservation center on a local toll-free number, 177-353-1181. The chain, the third largest in the world, includes the Ramada and Renaissance hotels, as well as the Penta and Stouffer hotels.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

Fed buys dollars after record lows versus yen

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar was jolted sharply higher on the foreign exchange after the US Federal Reserve intervened to buy dollars for marks and yen, lifting it off yesterday's record lows against the Japanese currency.

But currency analysts doubted the move would result in a turnaround for the dollar yet, at least without help from other central banks and a tightening in US monetary policy.

"I think this intervention, while it might hold the dollar in the near term, is only going to give the market better levels to sell," said Brian Martin, economist at Citibank in London.

There were several bouts of ag-

gressive Fed intervention, with dollar buying from 1.4955 marks up to 1.5050.

Dollar/yen buying was at first mainly between 96.70 and 96.95, but the Fed later chased the Japanese currency up as far as 97.25 yen, dealers said.

"Quite frankly, they can throw as much money as they like at it but it's not going to change the fundamental weaknesses (of the dollar)," said David Brown, chief economist at Japanese bank Tokai Bank in London.

By 1730 GMT, the dollar had risen to 1.5078 marks from around 1.4950 when dealers reported the Fed was in the market. It was at 1.5000 late in Europe on Tuesday.

Against the yen, where it was in a more critical condition, the dollar gained more than a yen from the day's earlier post-World War II low around 96.10. It was quoted at 97.25 compared with 96.73 late on Tuesday.

There were no signs of European central banks joining in the intervention, dealers said. A continental European central bank source said there had been no request from the Fed for European central banks to support the dollar.

But Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer later said the German central bank welcomed the fact that the Fed had demonstrated a clear interest in a strong dollar.

State must explain pension fund denial

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the state 15 days to explain why Migdal Insurance Company should not be allowed to open a new pension fund and buy special-rate government bonds, as the Knesset went through convulsions to try to retroactively make it illegal for Migdal to do so.

The law was expected to pass its final reading in the plenum early this morning.

Until October 31, a law was in force banning new pension funds, and preventing funds established after December 31, 1993 from investing in special bonds bearing a 5.3 percent interest rate - considerably higher than that available on the capital market.

Last week, the government decided to extend this law until March 31, and the Knesset Finance Committee approved a bill to do so last Thursday. The bill, however, never completed its final reading in the Knesset, as the legislature was occupied with US President Bill Clinton's visit on Thursday, while on Monday, a large portion of the coalition was in Casablanca.

With the law having lapsed, Migdal argued, there was no reason it should not have the right to start a pension fund and invest in the special

bonds, since the High Court had ruled only two weeks ago that only because of the law was it not entitled to do so.

"The entire panel agrees that if it weren't for the law, the petitioners would be entitled [to start a fund and buy the special bonds]," the court wrote at the time. "From this it follows that after October 31, 1994, in the absence of appropriate legislation to prevent it, the petitioners will be entitled to receive the permit they are asking for."

The Knesset therefore spent much of yesterday trying to solve the problem it had created by letting the law lapse. Originally, it had intended to hold the final reading on the bill extending the law yesterday. Yesterday morning, however, the government realized that it could not extend a law that had already lapsed. Instead, the bill had to be reworded as a new law, applicable retroactively from November 1.

This required the bill to be returned to the Finance Committee for rewriting and a revote - which, said Michael Eitan (Likud) during one of several brawls over procedure in the plenum, by Knesset rules, cannot be done

while the plenum is in session.

"What is this terrorism?" Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) demanded of Dan Tichon (Likud) during one debate. "Stop shouting at [Deputy Speaker] Amir Maor. You're acting like a terrorist."

Knesset speaker Shevah Weiss decided Eitan was right, however, and therefore declared a break in the plenum debate for both the vote to ask that the bill be returned to committee and the vote on the revised bill itself.

The House Committee was also forced to hold a special meeting to decide whether the proposed alterations significantly changed the bill, and therefore could not be included, and also to exempt the bill from the requirement of being submitted in its final form 24 hours before the plenum vote. These votes required another recess in the plenum.

Knesset Finance Committee economic advisor Smadar Elhanan, meanwhile, said the government's failure to pass the law on time was disgraceful, and warned that the effort to retroactively extend it might not stand up in court. "The whole thing is crooked," she said. "Why did [the government] wait? Everyone knew the law expired on October 31!"

Ayalon Insurance to buy car rental firm

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AYALON Insurance is negotiating to buy a car rental company as part of its plan to diversify and to improve customer services, managing director Levi Rachmani said yesterday.

Rachmani said Ayalon wants controlling interest or an equal partnership in the company and plans to provide financial leasing and operating leasing services through the car rental firm.

Nogah Rachmani, Ayalon's assistant general manager, said "Ayalon agents will be able to market leasing contracts through us. The financial leasing division will offer loans to finance the purchase of automobiles while the operating leasing division will lease automobiles."

The insurance firm has begun providing a series of new services and benefits to attract customers and help agents compete with companies offering direct marketing of insurance. Ayalon plans to

embark on an advertising campaign within a few days promoting its new services.

Rachmani said Ayalon, through Moked Call, yesterday started to operate a 24-hour first response unit which will provide services 364 days per year. Ayalon Call is a free phone service which is expected to speed up significantly up agents' treatment of insurance claims.

Rachmani said the first response unit is intended to solve all automobile insurance holders' problems including towing and rescue services, glaziers, damage assessment, the temporary replacement of vehicles, and automobile theft. He said the phone service refers insurance holders to garages and immediately notifies agents on accidents and theft.

Ayalon has recently introduced price reductions to customers who don't drive on shabbat and single drivers.

Slowdown in economic activity State revenues up 4% last month to NIS 5.9b.

JOSE ROSENFELD

ECONOMIC activity slowed down in the past two months based on Value Added Tax (VAT) receipts, State Revenues Director Yoram Gabbai reported yesterday.

State revenues rose 4 percent to NIS 5.9 billion last month compared with October 1993. Since the beginning of the year, revenues have grown by 12% to NIS 60.6b.

Legislative changes made during the year cut NIS 1.2b. in receipts from the tax basis. Excluding those changes, revenues shot up 15% during the first ten months of the year.

Income tax revenues rose 17% last month to NIS 3.5b. and 21% since the beginning of the year to NIS 33.4b. Company income taxes and taxes on wages contributed to income tax revenue expansion.

By contrast, property tax revenues moderated in recent months after rising steeply ear-



Gabbai: VAT, customs receipts down 12% last month to NIS 2.2b. (Isaac Harari)

lier this year.

The decline, however, was offset by higher revenues from taxes on wages due to the public

sector salary hikes. VAT and customs receipts fell 12% last month to NIS 2.2b. Since the beginning of the year, however, revenues rose 3% to NIS 26b.

This increase was achieved despite cuts in customs and purchase taxes. Excluding those cuts, receipts rose 7% since the beginning of the year.

Based on VAT revenues, economic activity was expanding at an annual rate of 9% until August. In the past two months, however, VAT receipts fell, bringing down the economy's annual growth rate to 7%.

Customs revenues recovered after September when they fell sharply due to the large number of holidays.

Durable imports continued rising last month. Car imports jumped 37% compared with September 1993. Similarly, refrigerator imports shot up 102%, video recorders 58%, dishwashers 53%, laundry washers 27%, and televisions 16%.

Discount group raises share in Nice

RACHEL NEIMAN

DISCOUNT Investment and PEC have exercised their option to raise their share in Nice Systems from 12 percent to 20%.

Discount and PEC will purchase a total of 409,000 shares at NIS 19.5 per share from Nice management and workers, who will reduce their holdings in Nice to 43%, from 51%.

The US-based aerospace concern TRW continues to hold 2% of Nice while 35% is publicly held.

The NIS 19.5 share price was derived from the price paid in September 1992.

3COM Corporation, a Fortune 500 company, last month purchased Nice's subsidiary NiceCom for about \$53 million plus an additional \$5.5m. in stock options.

Didi Arzi, Nice's chairman of the board, said the Discount group was attracted to the company partly due to the NiceCom deal. In addition, he said, "we are in a good state with our other lines of business: computer telephone integration products for the financial sector and communications intelligence."

Tnuva to form partnership with Jordanians, Palestinians

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TNUVA plans to manufacture and distribute dairy products in the Middle East in partnership with Jordanian and Palestinian investors, Yossele Yudovich, head of Tnuva's dairy division, said yesterday.

Yudovich said Tnuva, together with the investors, will distribute its dairy products to Palestinians as well as to Jordan, Iran, and Iraq. He said the company also will establish joint manufacturing plants in Jordan based on Tnuva's know-how.

"We are currently discussing our plans with Jordanian and Palestinian investors. It will take us about a year to finalize the agree-

ment," Yudovich said. "Dairy products manufactured in Jordan are relatively poor in quality. Jordan currently imports dairy products from America."

Tnuva, which markets about 400 products, operates nine plants which process a total of 900 million liters of milk per year, or about 80 percent of the local market. Overall annual sales for the local dairy market is NIS 1.05 billion. "Over the last four years the government has not subsidized the dairy sector. All other agriculture sectors receive govern-

ment help," Yudovich said.

He added that Tnuva emphasizes quality and innovation, and the firm invests about \$50m. per year in research and development.

"During each of the last three years we have introduced 30 new products and expect to continue at this rate in future."

In 1995, Tnuva plans to invest \$400,000 in a production line for the manufacture of grated parmesan cheese.

The company expects to sell 20 tons of grated cheese in the first year and to double production within two years.

New regulations for private placements okayed

EVELYN GORDON

ORDINARY shareholders will now have more control over private placements, thanks to new regulations approved yesterday by the Knesset Finance Committee.

One of the regulations states that if a private placement will turn the buyer into a principal shareholder, the issuing company must obtain the approval of a general shareholders' meeting. Previously, the approval of a shareholders' meeting was required only if 3 percent of the shareholders demanded it.

A principal shareholder is defined as anyone holding at least 5% of the company. Members of the board and managing directors are also considered principal shareholders, even if they hold less than 5%.

The new regulations also allow 1% of all shareholders to demand a shareholders' meeting to approve a

private placement even if the recipient of the shares will not become a principal shareholder. Previously, it required 3% of the stock owners to demand such a meeting.

Thirdly, all shareholders must now be given information on the placement. Previously, only institutions such as banks, which hold stock for many customers, were sent such information.

The committee, however, also approved two regulations to make placements easier for the company.

One of these frees the company from all normal procedures for private placements - such as publicizing the placement in the press or sending announcements to shareholders - for placements to workers, if no worker will thereby become a principal shareholder and if the total placement is no

more than 5% of the company's issued capital.

In addition, if a company receives stock in another firm instead of money for the placement, it does not need to send its shareholders the second company's financial reports and description unless the stock it receives will constitute more than 5% of its shareholders' equity.

The committee also approved new requirements for non-banking companies wishing to become members of the bourse. From now on, at least one of the firm's senior managers will have to have five years of experience on the capital markets, and the firm itself must have spent at least two years in investment consulting or portfolio management. The company will also need to have appropriate computer and communications systems.

Koffler to represent BlockBuster

RACHEL NEIMAN

SUPERPHARM founder Leon Koffler, who also holds interest in Tower Records and Office Depot, will be the sole local representative of BlockBuster Video.

There are 4,000 BlockBuster stores worldwide that feature a selection of over 7,000 films and games.

BlockBuster is owned by Viacom, which also owns Paramount movie studios, TV production studios, radio stations, and cable TV stations, including MTV and the US movie channel Showtime.

Viacom's yearly turnover is \$12 billion.

"I am a great believer in the renewed success of video rental in Israel," said Koffler, who added that after the initial infatuation with cable TV, Israelis would return to videotapes.

"People prefer selective viewing as opposed to a large amount of out-of-date or repeat programming."

Koffler, a Canadian immigrant, established SuperPharm some 17 years ago.

The chain has been recognized by the local business community for its innovative management and marketing techniques.

Processed food sales growing at 18% rate

RACHEL NEIMAN

LOCAL processed food sales are expected to grow by 18 percent to NIS 21 billion while exports should increase by 3% to \$570 million by year's end, according to Avraham Ben-Moshe, chairman of the Manufacturers Association food division.

Despite the sales growth, the association is worried that with

imports expected to grow by 20% this year to \$640m., the imbalance is a red flag signaling local manufacturers to take action.

Ben-Moshe and food division manager Kurt Gabor pointed out that local food producers were not as protected as their EEC counterparts.

"We would be willing to give up on all tariffs and levies on condition that there would be complete equality between Israel and

those (EEC) countries," Gabor said.

In other news, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced on Tuesday it would levy a \$1.11 tariff on each kilogram of ice cream imported from the EEC.

Local manufacturers Tnuva and Strauss have put heavy pressure on the ministry to react to reports that Haagen-Dazs ice cream will be imported.

Until now, ice cream imports, mainly from Italy and France, have not been subject to tax.

LanOptics third-quarter profits fall to NIS 2.3m.

RACHEL NEIMAN

LANOPTICS yesterday announced third-quarter net profits of NIS 2.3 million compared with NIS 4m. in the same period last year.

The firm's revenues rose to NIS 16m., from NIS 12.7m. last year.

The company said the profit decrease was due to higher selling, general, and adminis-

trative costs.

During the past quarter, LanOptics, a supplier of intelligent, multi-protocol, and stackable hubs, signed an agreement with Fast Route, a subsidiary of Alcatel Data Networks.

The company has also begun shipping new integrated remote

access router/hub products, which were developed with Cisco Systems.

LanOptics President Eli Harry said "our UK distribution agreement with a company of Fast Route's caliber will prove to be an important milestone in company strategy for the marketing of our new integrated hub-router products."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Direct Insurance yesterday filed a complaint with the police suspecting that people are deliberately trying to disrupt its operations. The company, which sells insurance by telemarketing, has been flooded with telephone calls since Sunday, the day it started to market directly automobile and home insurance policies. The company suspects some of the calls were made by people who want to occupy the firm's telephone lines at the expense of potential new customers.

Banks must give guarantors copy of loan agreement: Banking institutions have to provide loan guarantors with a copy of the loan guarantee agreement and must give them two-weeks notice before making changes to their obligation, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday. The change is based on a High Court decision which established that a guarantor is not a bank's client. As a result of the decision, under the new amendments to the Banking Law published in June, the central bank is defining the relationship between guarantors and banks.

Bank Hapoalim has introduced a new option savings plan linked to the dollar and the basket of currencies. The dollar-linked plan is for a 26-month period. At the end of the savings period, customers can choose between the highest of two linkages, the consumer price index plus 1% or the representative rate plus 4%. The currency basket 27-month plan lets customers choose between linkage to the CPI plus 1% or linkage to the basket of currencies plus 4%.

Cyclone Aviation Products has announced a \$17.5m. order from aircraft manufacturer McDonnell-Douglas. The US-based concern, which only recently placed a \$6.5m. order with Cyclone, has the option to increase the second order to \$24m. The order will be filled by late 1996 and early 1997.

WORLD BRIEFS

US plant's new orders down: New orders received by US factories weakened slightly during September and shipments of finished products dropped, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

The 0.2 percent decline in September orders to a seasonally adjusted \$286.8 billion marked the second fall in orders in the past three months. Orders were up a revised 4.7% in August and dropped 2% in July.

Quaker to buy Snapple: Quaker Oats Co., itself the target of recent takeover speculation, said yesterday it is buying natural fruit drinks maker Snapple Beverage Corp. for \$1.7b. in cash.

East Meadow, N.Y.-based Snapple, which was founded in 1972 as Unadulterated Food Products Inc. and sold all-natural fruit drinks to health food stores, has annual sales of nearly \$700 million.

BAT earnings up 21%: Tobacco and insurance giant BAT yesterday boosted third quarter profits 21% and said it was confident its \$1b. takeover of American Tobacco would go ahead despite US regulators' attempts to block it.

Pre-tax profits for three months to end September rose to \$551m. from \$455m., boosted by a recovery in the United States tobacco market.

Sainsbury profits up 7%: Britain's biggest food retailer J. Sainsbury Plc yesterday reported a near seven percent rise in half-year profits as its cut price campaign drove sales higher and helped beat off tough competition from rival supermarkets.

The group's one-year old Essentials campaign, which reduced the price of some 300 basic food items, was key in reviving the company's fortunes.

Pre-tax profits in the 28 weeks to September 24 rose to \$444.3m. from \$417.2m. on overall sales up 8.2% to \$6.35b.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (3.11.94)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.875	5.125	5.750
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.825	5.000	5.575
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.250	4.625
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	5.000	5.125	5.625
Yen (10 million yen)	6.750	6.875	7.125

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposits)

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0030	+0.13%
Sterling	NIS 4.9191	+0.15%
Mark	NIS 2.0101	+0.54%

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

Afternoon

Morning

Volume

Price Change

Volume

Price Change

Volume

Price Change

Volume

Price Change

Volume

Price Change

Volume

Price Change

Volume

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Commercial Banks

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Mortgage Banks

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Financial Institutions

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Insurance

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Trade & Services

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Industrials

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Investment Companies

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Other stock market indexes

Index	Value	Change
FTSE 100	3091.3	-15.47
Nikkei 225	17950.0	-106.0
DAX	1919.0	-10.0
Hong Kong	6401.76	-10.0
S&P 500	447.8	-0.12

Israeli stocks in NY

Stock	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

INTEL MONEY

Money	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Dollar crossrates (US)

Currency	Rate	Change
US Dollar	3.0030	+0.13%
Sterling	4.9191	+0.15%
Mark	2.0101	+0.54%

Libor rates

Rate	Value	Change
3 months	6.00%	0.00%
6 months	6.00%	0.00%
12 months	6.00%	0.00%

Foreign financial data courtesy of

Country	Value	Change
US	100.00	0.00%
UK	100.00	0.00%
Germany	100.00	0.00%

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	25.00	-0.50
Gold	380.00	-0.50
Silver	10.00	-0.50

London commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	25.00	-0.50
Gold	380.00	-0.50
Silver	10.00	-0.50

Spot market metals (US)

Metal	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	-0.50
Silver	10.00	-0.50
Copper	1.00	-0.01

New York metal futures

Metal	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	-0.50
Silver	10.00	-0.50
Copper	1.00	-0.01

London metal futures

Metal	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	-0.50
Silver	10.00	-0.50
Copper	1.00	-0.01

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Multi-sided trading

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Two-sided trading

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Afternoon

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Morning

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Leumi	175.00	-0.50
Bank Hapoalim	175.00	-0.50
Bank Mizrahi	175.00	-0.50

Eilat barely manages Korac win

YOSEF SA'AR

IN spite of Hapoel Eilat's rather fat 24-point cushion, the host southerners almost blew it last night, going down to Bipa-Moda Odessa 94-80 in Korac Cup play. With the aggregate win (Eilat won the first encounter 78-54), the Eilatians advance to the Final 16.

For the first half, the game was quite close, with the visitors taking a slim 40-38 advantage into the locker room.

In the second half, the Odessans came out hot and maintained a 17-point lead through much of the final 20 minutes. With 13 minutes to go, Eilat's fans began to perspire excessively as Bipa-Moda mounted a 20-point lead.

Bipa-Moda's Sergei Pintzuk, with seven 3-pointers, was the game's high scorer with 33 points. Vadim Podzerev chipped in 21 points, including three 3-pointers.

Andrew Kennedy was high man for Eilat with 19.

Although the hosts were tough under the boards, out-rebounding Bipa-Moda 23-15, their long-range game faltered badly as only three of 10 3-pointers found the mark.

Eilat will now advance to the Sweet 16, consisting of four four-team groups. Each team will play a home-and-away cycle with the other teams in its group. The top two teams in each group move onto the quarter-finals. The draw takes place in Munich on Saturday.

Eilat's joy at reaching the next stage was tempered somewhat by the next battle - securing the right to play the final pool's home game in Eilat. According to FIFA rules, all Final 16 matches must be played in an arena with a minimum 3,000 seating capacity. Hapoel Eilat, including Mayor Gabi Kadosh, is appealing the decision which would require the Southern to venture some 350 kilometers into the center of the country to accommodate the ruling.

Israel to face Azerbaijan in Trabzon

ORI LEWIS

EUROPEAN soccer's governing body, UEFA, yesterday named the Turkish town of Trabzon as the venue for Israel's upcoming European Nations Championship qualifying encounter against Azerbaijan.

Trabzon, on the shores of the Black Sea in northeastern Turkey, was chosen after UEFA refused to allow the Azerbaijanis to host the fixture at their preferred venue of Sumgait, some 40-kilometers north of the Azeri capital, Baku because of the security situation in the country.

UEFA had given the Azerbaijanis a week to find an alternative venue when they announced the ban on October 21. But the Azeris had great difficulty in finding a place willing to host the match.

Simferopol in the Crimea, a part of the Ukraine, on the northern shores of the Black Sea was considered to be a possibility, but the Azerbaijani efforts had proved fruitless and yesterday UEFA decided to name Trabzon, probably the closest safe venue to Azerbaijan.

Israel's national and under-21 sides now have exactly two weeks to prepare for their respective matches. ITV will screen the national team's match live at 18:00 on November 16.

Rise High takes softball State Cup

Post Sports Staff

RISE Hi Furniture beat Zionsou 13-8 to win the Israel Softball League State Cup Tuesday at Kibbutz Gezer.

The high risers, led by Dov Rubin and Greg Hamburg who were each 4-for-5, jumped out to an early lead, scoring six runs in the top of the first.

The Z-men got on the scoreboard in the third with a three-run blast by Mike Dokotofsky, and closed the gap two innings later when Richard Duffy sent one into the corn field.

In the seventh, winning pitcher Earl Harow helped his own cause with a key two-run base hit to put the game out of reach. Harow finished the game with three hits and five RBIs.

Winger 'Finnished' with NHL lockout

HARTFORD (AP) - Hartford Whalers left wing Geoff Sanderson is heading for a Finnish team, joining a migration of NHL players tired of the month-old lockout.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

Mac TA in tough test to even mark

JOEL GORDIN

NATIONAL basketball champion Maccabi Tel Aviv will be the underdog in tonight's away game against Greece's Panathinaikos in the second game of the European Club Championships' final pool.

For the past few years, it has become an indisputable fact that, team for team, the Greek league is superior to its Israeli counterpart. If anyone needed further proof, the current league leader, Maccabi Rishon Lezion, was whipped on Tuesday night 104-65 by Panionios, which is fourth in the Greek league.

The Greeks not only have a rising stable of excellent local players, but their clubs have invested millions in stuffing the teams with foreign stars, notably from the former Yugoslavia. In Greece (as in Italy and Spain), the Yugoslavian re-utgee can earn \$500,000. Maccabi, by comparison, has a budget of \$200,000 for each foreigner.

Maccabi lost a home game to PAOK Saloniki last week, so it bodes them ill that they must face yet another Greek team on foreign turf, where the roaring, partisan Athenian fans can bend nerves of steel.

Panathinaikos will probably be without Nikis Galis, who is in a dispute with the management for having benched him recently.

The club still has more than enough talent, however, the most formidable being veteran sharpshooter Panagiotis Yannakis, whom Maccabi knows only too well from his years at Aris Saloniki.

The Greeks team is also re-enforced with former Yugoslav forward Zarko Paspalj and center Stojan Vrankovic.

Maccabi has a sick list, with Doron Janichev, Yisrael Elimelech and Radisav Curcic all under the weather.

The game will be shown live on Channel 1 at 21:45.

Barcelona pounds Man Utd

BARCELONA - Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov scored twice for Barcelona in a resounding 4-0 win yesterday over Manchester United in a European Champions League match before a sellout at 112,000-seat Camp Nou stadium.

The victory came two weeks after the two clubs played a 2-2 draw in England and was by far Barcelona's best match of its four in Group A of the Champions League.

The four-time defending Spanish league champions took the initiative almost immediately as Dutch defender Ronald Koeman picked up a yellow card in the second minute after a stiff tackle on Manchester's Mark Hughes.

Stoichkov struck first in the ninth minute with a goal set up by 20-year-old Jordi Cruyff - the son of coach Johan Cruyff and a surprise starter in the match.

Cruyff started in place of Barcelona's fourth foreigner, Romanian Gheorghe Hagi.

The younger Cruyff picked up a

loose ball following a deflected shot by teammate Jose Maria Bakero and fed it across the pitch to the fiery Bulgarian, who scored with a left-footed shot from 15 meters that bounced once and got in to the right of goalie Gary Walsh.

Brazilian World Cup hero Romario made it 2-0 in injury time in the first half when he scored head-on from 12 meters following a crossing pass from Stoichkov.

Stoichkov struck again in the 53rd minute on a give-and-go play with Romario.

The Bulgarian came down the left side and gave a short pass to Romario, who immediately dropped the ball back to Stoichkov. Stoichkov then scored on a blistering shot from 18 meters that got in to the left of Walsh.

Barcelona's international defender Albert Ferrer capped the scoring in the 88th minute on a goal from 12 meters.

Several dozen British fans were arrested for minor disturbances in the

last two days, although no incidents were reported during the match.

AC Milan 2, AEK Athens 1. Two headed goals from defender Christian Panucci gave AC Milan a win over AEK Athens in Group D match yesterday after the holders had been pushed to the brink of a costly defeat.

Panucci popped up at the far post to level the score in the 68th minute and then produced another powerful header six minutes later to revive Milan's hopes of reaching the last eight.

Midfielder Toni Savovskii had given the Greeks a shock lead with a fine goal in the 16th minute, driving home a low shot from the edge of the penalty box after Milan captain Franco Baresi had failed to clear a corner.

The result lifted the five-times European Cup winners off the bottom of Group D.

The Italians have three points from four games, docked two points for a bottle-throwing incident in their win over Austria Salzburg in September.

UEFA also closed the San Siro stadium as a punishment for the incident against Salzburg, forcing Milan to play in Trieste.

Goteborg 1, Glatsaaray. An 87th minute goal by Magnus Erlingmark gave Sweden's IFK Goteborg an away victory in a fast-moving match.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A. In Barcelona: Barcelona (Spain) 4, Manchester United (England) 0 (2-0). Scores: Hristo Stoichkov (9th, 51st), Romario (45th), Albert Ferrer (87th). Attendance: 115,000.

In Istanbul: Galatasaray (Turkey) 0, Goteborg (Sweden) 1 (0-0). Score: Mikael Nilsson (66th). Attendance: 30,000.

Group B. In Moscow: Bayern Munich (Germany) 2, Spartak Moscow (Russia) 2 (2-2). Scores: Bayern - Christian Nerlinger (29th), Samuel Kuffour (36th); Spartak - Andrei Tikhonov (4th), Yuri Alenichev (32nd). Attendance: 25,000.

In Paris: Paris St Germain (France) 1, Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 0 (0-0). Score: George Weah (68th). Attendance: 33,741.

Group C. In Bucharest: Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 1, Benfica (Portugal) 1 (1-0). Scores: Steaua Bucharest - Besarab Pandure (27th); Benfica - Cristovao Helder (64th). Attendance: 22,000.

In Brno: Anderlecht (Belgium) 0, Hajduk Split (Croatia) 0. Attendance: 21,000.

Group D. In Amsterdam: Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 1, Austria Salzburg (Austria) 1 (0-0). Scores: Ajax - Jari Litmanen (85th minute); Salzburg - Tomislav Kodjan (52nd). Attendance: 40,000.

Goteborg 1, Glatsaaray. An 87th minute goal by Magnus Erlingmark gave Sweden's IFK Goteborg an away victory in a fast-moving match. (AP, Remer)



DOWN AND OUT IN GAY PAREE - Jim Courier shows his frustration during 2nd-round defeat.

(AP)

'Down' Courier crashes out of Paris Open

PARIS (AP) - Mark Woodforde put an end to Jim Courier's down year as the Australian eliminated Courier, 7-6(7-3), 6-3 in the second round of the \$2.25 million Paris Open yesterday.

Currently ranked 14th, Courier will finish the year outside the top 10 for the first time since he was 25th at the end of 1990. He has not won a tournament since August 1993 and is not scheduled for any more tournaments this year.

"It has been rather an up-and-down year; mostly down for me," Courier said. "Hopefully it will be character building and I will come

back strong next year."

Boris Becker, fresh from a tournament victory in Stockholm, had a first-set scare but advanced over Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

In other second-round matches, two-time French Open champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain eliminated Bernd Karbacher of Germany, 6-4, 6-3; and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who will lead Russia in the Davis Cup final next month, downed Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, 6-3, 6-4.

Also Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands fired 17 aces to beat Italian

Renzo Furlan, 6-3, 6-3.

Woodforde has now beaten Courier three of the four times they have met, including once when Courier was No. 1 in the world in March 1993.

Woodforde took the first set behind a new rule allowing fans to shout and move during points.

At 6-3 in the opening set tiebreaker, a fan yelled when Woodforde served. Courier didn't move but chair umpire, Rudi Berger, ruled that it was a ace and the set was over.

Woodforde went to the sidelines. Courier waited on court for at least a

minute, hoping that the point would be replayed, before heading to his seat for the changeover.

"The new rules state that we have to play when there are people yelling, and Jim knows that," Woodforde said. "If it had happened to him, he probably would have walked off and left me standing there or anyone else."

Courier had little to say about the incident.

"The rules are made already. No one asked me, so that is that," Courier said. "I will adjust to whatever they throw at me. It is no problem."

Chicago bids farewell to Bulls' best ever

CHICAGO (AP) - With a bronze statue unveiled outside the stadium and a No. 23 jersey raised to the rooftop, Chicago said farewell Tuesday night to the best basketball player this city - and the sport - has known.

For two hours, teammates, opponents, fans, former coaches, entertainers and family celebrated and lauded not only Michael Jordan's basketball career but also his life.

They saluted the man who led the Chicago Bulls to three straight championships before taking early retirement 13 months ago.

After the festivities, Jordan reiterated that his basketball days were indeed over.

"When I made the decision, I was fixed with that, pretty firm with it," he said. "A lot of things lingered on, certain expectations maintained the possibility that I might come back."

"With that number hanging up, that puts that to rest. I've got to move on. There's a new team here. I'm playing baseball."

During the celebration Tuesday night, North Carolina coach Dean Smith and comedian Sinbad shared the same stage, actor Woody Harrelson joined fellow TV sitcom actors in a musical tribute and master of ceremonies Ahmad Rashad jokingly tried to coax Jordan back to basketball.

Jordan's highlights - an NCAA championship, two Olympic gold

medals, three MVPs in the regular season and three in the NBA finals - flashed across the large scoreboard in the new United Center, where a near sellout crowd came to watch.

Bob Knight, who coached Jordan on the 1984 Olympic team, said Jordan might have been more than the best basketball player to step on the court with his acrobatic moves and incomparable assortment of dunks.

"He may have been the best player who's played anything," Knight said.

An 11½-foot (3.5m) bronze statue of Jordan was unveiled outside the United Center, across the street from Chicago Stadium, where he led the Bulls to their three straight NBA titles.

And Jordan's No. 23, known worldwide on athletic apparel that has helped make him a multimillionaire, was retired. Jordan ended the ceremony by hoisting it to the ceiling as his three children stood by.

Now it's baseball that has Jordan's fancy. He spent last season in Double-A, is now in the Arizona Fall League and could start next season in Triple-A, said Jerry Reinsdorf, owner of the Bulls and the Chicago White Sox.

Jordan said he wants to play major league baseball with the White Sox. He's still trying to find out if he has the ability to make it to the top of another sport.

NFL owners unable to agree on realignment

ROSEMONT, ILL. (AP) - Because National Football League club owners were unable to agree on a realignment plan, commissioner Paul Tagliabue yesterday placed the Jacksonville and Carolina expansion franchises into the league's current four-team divisions.

Jacksonville will play the 1995 season in the AFC Central Division with Houston, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. Carolina will play in the NFC West, with San Francisco, Atlanta, New Orleans and the Los Angeles Rams. The league will have six divisions of five teams each.

Tagliabue said the plan would be in force for next season only. Club owners must vote to either reaffirm it or realign the divisions.

It had been assumed that the teams would be

reorganized along geographic lines, getting teams like Atlanta out of the NFC Western Division and Arizona out of the NFC East.

Pittsburgh owner Dan Rooney had proposed that six teams - Seattle, Tampa Bay, Arizona, Indianapolis, Houston and Atlanta - change divisions. But many teams balked at the loss of rivalries and, subsequently, possible revenues.

"I think it would get the majority of the votes, but we need 21 of 28 to approve realignment," Rooney said Tuesday. "It's difficult, like trying to over-ride a presidential veto."

That's because every team was looking out for itself.

"Ultimately, we'd like to move some people around - as long as it's not us," Minnesota presi-

dent Roger Headrick said. "But that's the way other people feel, too, and that's why we don't get anything done. You've got basic inertia - if it isn't going to help me, why do it?"

Tagliabue appointed a 10-member committee to study the issue. The committee will report at a meeting next March.

The owners also were scheduled to hear presentations yesterday from both Miami and San Francisco before choosing the site of the 1999 Super Bowl.

Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium plays host to this season's Super Bowl. The San Francisco area last held the game in 1985 at Stanford Stadium in Palo Alto. This time, Candlestick Park, which houses the 49ers, was bidding for its first Super Bowl.

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'Walesa plans to invite Arafat to Auschwitz'

To mark 50th anniversary of liberation

BATSHEVA TSUR

HOLocaust survivors were up in arms yesterday over a German newspaper report that Polish President Lech Walesa planned to invite Nobel Peace prize winners — including PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat — to the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The report appeared in the German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, which said Walesa had been warned by the Foreign Ministry in Warsaw that the decision would lead to fierce opposition on the part of survivors.

"Auschwitz symbolizes the tragedy of the Jewish people and has nothing to do with war and peace," Yehoshua Shaul, spokesman for the Jewish Agency, said last night. "We simply can't understand why, if the report is true, they have to invite Nobel Peace prize winners."

"Arafat doesn't have to be in Auschwitz," said Menashe Lorenczy, head of the Mingeles Organization. "He was the continuation of what they did [there]."

"The whole idea is ridiculous," said Jerusalemite Mordechai Alon, one of the "Mingeles twins" who survived the death camp. "The decision shows that Walesa doesn't understand what Auschwitz stands for. What possible significance is there to inviting prize winners... and the liberation of Auschwitz? Is this some

sort of celebration?" However, another "Mingeles twin," Vera Kriegel, said she thought it was important to take Arafat to Auschwitz so he could learn the lessons of the Holocaust.

"I would take him by the hand and shown him everywhere the horror took place," she said on an Israel Radio talk show.

"If you do that," retorted Dov Shilansky, deputy Knesset speaker and himself a Holocaust survivor, "you will never hold my hand again."

Shilansky added that he would do everything in his power to prevent Jews from attending the ceremony if Arafat were invited.

But Alon found that inappropriate as well. "I don't want Shilansky organizing the Holocaust for me either," he said.

The chief rabbi of Poland's Jewish community, Rabbi Pinhas Menashe Yosef, said he wanted Arafat to come.

"If we can, by any action, prevent killing or war, to achieve security for the Jewish people, and to help Israel economically — and if the politicians think that by Arafat's visit to Auschwitz these things can be achieved — I am for it," Yosef told Israel Radio. "Sometimes you have to do unpleasant things."



An IDF officer at the Allenby Bridge yesterday accepts family blood samples from Heba Rnshdi Shaban, 12, a Jordanian girl who hopes that a bone-marrow transplant in Israel will cure her congenital anemia. The samples went to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem, where technicians began testing them immediately. Hadassah sources said results should be ready today.

(Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: AP)

Sheetrit, Shahal clash in Knesset

DAN IZENBERG

Former Jewish Agency treasurer MK Meir Sheetrit (Likud), during an emotionally charged Knesset debate yesterday, angrily rejected a new police accusation that he had refused to show up for questioning regarding suspicions he had used an agency credit card for personal expenses.

The debate, initiated by Michael Eitan (Likud), pitted Sheetrit against Police Minister Moshe Shahal in the continuation of a controversy which erupted last month, when Israel Radio reporter Shimon Vilna quoted Shahal as saying the police planned to recommend that Sheetrit be indicted.

Shahal repeated the denial he made at the time, saying that when Vilna had asked him about the investigation, he replied: "I don't know."

When the reporter persisted, asking him whether he wanted to make any comment on the affair, Shahal said he told him: "I have nothing to say."

Shahal said he was not up to date on any police investigations and that he received a general report from the department twice a year.

He then read out a written statement by Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of

the police investigation department, charging that Sheetrit refused to respond to the investigators summons of him for questioning.

A visibly upset Sheetrit took to the podium and accused the police of "being like the police in Russia... I no longer have faith in them."

Sheetrit said he had first heard that he was under investigation via a radio news report while in Morocco. When he returned, he immediately asked to be questioned by the police.

Only after alleged leaks by the police and the reported statement by Shahal did Sheetrit decide not to reply to further questioning, he said.

"I don't oppose taking all the material as it is, but I no longer believe in the police. You distort the facts and lie to the public — and hand it over to the State Attorney's Office today. Let them examine it. I trust them."

Eitan agreed to drop the matter after hearing that the State Control Committee would discuss the entire question of police investigations of VIPs later this month.

Sheetrit, meanwhile, has lodged a complaint against Shahal with the Knesset ethics committee.

Three officers to stand trial for fatal accident

ALON PINKAS

A COLONEL, a lieutenant-colonel, and a captain will be court-martialed for their role in the accidental electrocution of IDF soldiers Eran Hudeida and Avikam Hoffman in July.

Judge Advocate-General Brig-Gen. Ian Shiff decided that the three failed to enforce safety precautions. They will be charged with causing death by negligence. If convicted, they could be demoted and otherwise disciplined.

Shiff found that Maj-Gen. Gabi Ophir, then commander of the IDF forces in Lebanon, cannot be held responsible. His promotion and appointment earlier this week as OC Judea and Samaria therefore remains in force.

Haifa murder victim had AIDS

DOCUMENTS found in the Haifa apartment of Shai Dammer, 46, the Technion lecturer whose murdered body was discovered Monday night, show that he suffered from AIDS, police revealed yesterday.

Police put out an announcement recommending that anyone who had sexual relations with Dammer get tested for the disease.

Before making the announcement, police consulted with various medical and legal authorities, who assured them that preserving the public health outweighed any considerations of privacy or medical confidentiality.

Dammer was buried yesterday after the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute, which had performed the autopsy, released his body.

The institute, which had been informed of his disease, took special blood samples to determine if he was HIV positive or had already progressed to a more advanced stage. (Iim)

Judge unconvinced by argument in Dinitz case

THE defense continued to hammer away at the testimony of prosecution witness Zvi Barak, head of the Jewish Agency's Finance Department, at yesterday's session of the trial of agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz in Jerusalem District Court.

Dinitz's lawyer, Uri Wagman, introduced documents in an attempt to show that Barak never asked Dinitz for an accounting of the personal expenses he had charged on his agency-issued American Express card.

He said the head of the Emissaries Department had stated that he had never asked Dinitz for an accounting, "because his predecessors had also never submitted such reports." Wagman insisted that this contradicted Barak's testimony that the department head had asked him to ask Dinitz for a report.

But Judge Shalom Brenner interjected that the department head may not have wanted to approach Dinitz himself, and so asked Barak to do so. "You have not yet convinced me there is any real contradiction between their versions," he said.

Wagman also made much of the point that in Barak's testimony to the police, he had used the term "accounting," while in his court testimony he said "report."

He said Barak did this because he felt he had to take a tougher line to exonerate himself from any blame.

Barak vigorously denied this, saying: "What's the difference. Report and accounting are related terms. If there's a report, there certainly has been an accounting." (Iim)

Bill to cancel purchase tax on flats under \$120,000

EVELYN GORDON

APARTMENTS costing up to \$120,000 would be exempt from purchase and stamp taxes, according to a bill approved by the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday.

The bill, by Meir Sheetrit (Likud), would exempt apartments in this price range from purchase tax and stamp tax. It will now go to the plenum for its first reading.

Currently, purchase tax on apartments costing up to NIS 175,000 is 0.5%. Between NIS 175,000 and NIS 240,000 the tax is 3.5%, and for apartments worth more than NIS 240,000 the tax is 4.5%.

However, the tax is levied not only on the price of the apartment, but also on all the other taxes connected with the deal — making it, according to Sheetrit, the most unjust tax in the country.

Since the stamp tax can be as much as 1%, the two taxes together could come to more than \$6,600 on an apartment worth \$120,000.

The bill is strongly opposed by the government. Deputy state revenues director Yehudit Lifshitz told the committee it would cost the state some NIS 400 million a year.

"There is no alternative source of funding for this NIS 400m.," she

said.

However, some coalition MKs support the bill, despite the government's opposition.

Avi Yehzekel (Labor), for instance, said the bill would help the government fulfill its promises to lower housing prices.

Sheetrit stressed the need to aid lower- and middle-income families find affordable housing.

In 1988, he noted, an average man needed 5.5 years' salary to buy a three-room apartment in the center of the country. By 1993, the average person needed 9.6 years' salary to buy the same apartment.

"I'm not trying to stab the government," he said. "I'm trying to help those for whom it is difficult [to buy an apartment]."

Committee chairman Gideon Palt (Likud) also said the bill would be an important step in making housing more affordable for young couples, but called on the government to take the idea further and cancel other taxes and fees as well.

"Building fees have reached such a dimension that they now constitute about one-third of the price per square meter of a residential apartment," he said.

Tape depicts Rabin as servant of Shas

SARAH HONIG

A RECENT tape of a lecture by Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef depicts Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as a pliant agent of Yosef, willing to do anything for Shas and its mentor.

"There is nothing Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will not do for Shas and its mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef," Yosef says on the tape. "He [Yosef] just has to make his wish and Rabin responds: 'Yes sir, rabbi. Immediately. I will do it right away.'"

The tape, a recording of a talk Yosef gave in Rishon LeZion, was obtained by the local weekly *Arutz*, which printed a transcript of it in its latest issue.

Previous recordings of Yosef made public have included coarse comments and curses aimed at, among others, former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni and the National Religious Party.

That Yosef depicts Rabin willing to do Shas's bidding was seen last night by a top Labor source as "an encouraging sign that Shas is indeed intent on rejoining the coalition." The source refused to comment further on the content of the remarks.

Yosef compared Rabin favorably to Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, whom he described as anti-religious and "as wicked as they come."

In contrast, Yosef said, "Rabin makes no trouble. He does whatever I tell him and he does it with love, respect and courtesy... When I spoke to Rabin about some yeshiva students who were called up for military service, he canceled the conscription orders on the spot..."

"Why should I lose what I have with him? Because Rabbi [Eliezer] Schach says so?" Yosef asked.

In fact, Yosef insists in the tape that Schach, the co-founder of Shas and now mentor to the United Torah Judaism party, "pushed us to join the coalition, despite the fact that Shulamit Aloni was awarded the education portfolio. A day later he said he changed his mind, but we said we can't change ours and make a laughing stock of ourselves. Why should we listen to him? Have we no mind of our own?"

Yosef said he is getting "financing from Rabin for 400 classes in the Shas school system and each class is worth NIS 300,000. I should give this up? Why?" he asked.

Regarding the latest furor regarding Labor's promise to circumvent the High Court of Justice on religious issues with special legislation, Yosef said: "We were promised that on whatever violates the status quo on religious affairs, we [Labor] are at your service."

Rafael intends to fire 300

ALON PINKAS

RAFAEL's management announced yesterday it intends to fire 300 workers in its weapons and missiles division and transfer an additional 500 to other departments.

Rafael, the state-owned weapon's development authority, has pushed for restructuring to make its operations more efficient and suitable to compete in shrinking world arms markets.

Management said this smaller market makes it difficult to justify the existence of the weapons and missiles division as an independent unit.

The Rafael workers committee said it will present a counter-proposal to save the jobs at risk.

In addition, management is currently negotiating the conditions for early retirement of 250 tenured Rafael workers.

Some 100 have already agreed to retire with enlarged pensions and benefits.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Medical aid to Zanzibar and Guinea-Bissau

The Foreign Ministry has responded to requests for medical help from Zanzibar and Guinea-Bissau. A delegation, including three doctors, left yesterday for two weeks to combat a plague of malaria in Zanzibar. The ministry also authorized a shipment of more than 50,000 inoculations to fight an outbreak of cholera in Guinea-Bissau.

Higher compensation for parents of fallen

Parents of fallen soldiers will have their compensation payments increased by 20% for their first remaining child and 11% for all others, instead of by only 10% per child as it is now, according to a bill approved Tuesday by the Ministerial Committee on Legislation. Allowances will be paid until the remaining children are 21, instead of 18 as previously.

Cialit workers press for receivership

Kupat Holim Cialit workers said yesterday they would "welcome" the health fund being put into receivership, because it would "force the health fund to be run in a proper manner, pay salaries, and bring the necessary funds from government sources."

Illegal dental clinic closed

The Health Ministry has ordered the closing of a Tel Aviv dental clinic run by Yehuda Goren, a non-dentist who was convicted in 1986 of the same violation. Instead of a six-month prison term, he was allowed to perform community service. A few months ago, the ministry found he had again opened a clinic that "endangered the health of his patients and could have resulted in irreparable damage."

Protest against US visa for Zhirinovsky

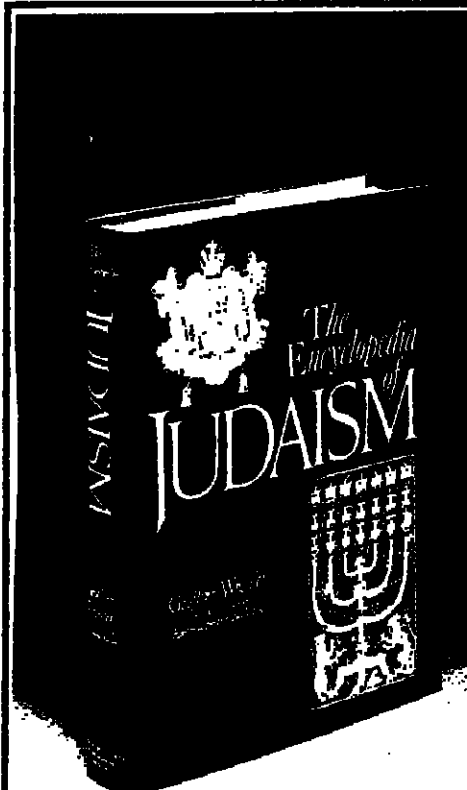
The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles has protested to the US State Department for its decision to grant a tourist visa to Russian nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky. The right-wing leader, who is known for antisemitic remarks, is scheduled to address the World Affairs Council in San Francisco on Monday.

Just 900 Gazans came to work

Only 900 workers came to work in Israel from Gaza yesterday, although Israel had issued 4,000 exit permits to the Palestinian Authority. The reason was considered bureaucratic, as the permits had not been distributed. However, most of the 4,000 permits distributed in territories under Israeli rule were used.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance draw, the lucky cards were the 9 of spades, 8 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and king of clubs. In yesterday's Lotto drawing there was no first-place winner, so the prize next drawing will be at least NIS 5 million. There were two second place winners, each of whom received NIS 55,833.80. Winning third prize were 127 people, each of whom won NIS 2,198.20.



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